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Etobicoke Guardian

May 5, 2006

Rapid transit on Hwy. 27 subject of report

Corridor to link north Etobicoke to subway line

by Tamara Shephard

Toronto city council has directed city planners and Toronto Transit Commission officials to report on options to designate a bus lane or light rapid transit on Hwy. 27 as a link to the Bloor subway line.

Council voted last week to study the use of Hwy. 27 as a priority corridor, after **Councillor Suzan Hall**, who represents the area, filed a notice of motion on the matter.

Pressure for the transit solution comes largely from business owners, Hall said, who say their employees need a more efficient means of getting to work from downtown.

North Etobicoke is home to a vast number of industrial employers, as well as Pearson International Airport, Humber College, and Woodbine Entertainment, which plans to open a \$310-million expansive sports and entertainment complex late next year that could generate more than 2,300 jobs.

Light rapid transit or a designated bus lane on Hwy. 27 would also benefit residents.

"I like the idea of light rapid transit. I'd love a subway," Hall said, noting funding for a subway is unlikely. "But a designated rapid bus lane is not so bad, either."

Currently, an express bus is the only option. And it's not all that express, Hall said.

"The express bus takes an hour and 20 minutes on a normal day to get downtown to City Hall (from north Etobicoke)," Hall said. "That to me is not terribly express. It's not necessarily the fastest thing in town.

"We're really looking for some improvement."

Report recommendations could become part of planning and transportation's work plan early next year.