



# University Students' Council

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**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL**  
**Office of the Vice-President**

January 16, 2017

To: University of Western Ontario Board of Governors

On behalf of the University Students' Council, an organization representing all undergraduate students at Western University, I write to you to discuss your upcoming decision regarding the future of transit on our campus and within the City of London. The USC was pleased to be actively involved in conversations regarding rapid transit, and after extensive dialogue with our advocacy standing committee, I wish to express our support for the approved route, with an emphasis on a **car-free campus core**.

However, the following are areas of concern for students that we would also like to see addressed and considered before a decision is made:

- Affiliate bus shuttles must continue to operate in a way where students are able to access their classes in a timely and efficient manner
- Evening service of hire-vehicles (taxis and Uber) should be allowed on campus to prioritize safety of students who may feel unsafe walking on campus during late hours
- London Transit Commission busses should still be allowed to utilize rapid transit routes on campus in order to service students who live on the south side of the University. These routes must be low frequency (2-3 per hour in each direction) and servicing to University Hospital should also be emphasized

London is a growing and prosperous city for students. Our institutions and community are attracting diverse populations of young innovators, learners, and trailblazers. A reliable and efficient transit system servicing Western would allow students the ability to connect and explore a City which showcases great potential for interdisciplinary thought and learning outside the classroom. SHIFT, and Bus Rapid Transit, is the essential next step in fostering youth engagement in crafting London as a world-class city for research, innovation, collaboration and learning. It is imperative that we create a system that creates it easier for student mobility both on campus and in London and does not create unnecessary hindrances. We believe, that by allowing BRT along the proposed route, while also creating proactive pedestrian-safety measures, we can foster and collaborative campus environment which continues to support the best student experience.

Sincerely,

Jamie Cleary  
Vice-President, University Students' Council