



Nov. 28, 2018

Mayor and Members of Ottawa City Council  
Ottawa City Hall  
110 Laurier Ave. West  
Ottawa K1P 1A1

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

### **2018-2022 Council Governance Review**

On behalf of the Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) – an umbrella group representing 47 community associations in Ottawa – let me first congratulate all members of the 2018-2022 City Council on your election. We look forward to engaging in fruitful dialogue as we both work to build a city that we all wish to live in.

One of the first tasks of the 2018-2022 City Council is to deal with its governance structure. To this end the FCA wishes to bring to your attention our concern over the need to ensure accountability over a major city responsibility for which most of us pay taxes, and that is the provision of public transit services by the City's Transit Commission.

In the recent municipal election the FCA heard, as I am sure you also heard, much public discussion regarding the quality of service provided by OC Transpo, particularly as we transition to Light Rail Transit. We believe the current governance structure under which the Transit Commission only reports to City Council on its global budget, fare structure, and labour negotiation mandate, is not sufficient. We believe City Councillors, particularly those whose residents pay the Urban Transit Levy (some \$271 million in 2017), should also be accountable for OC Transpo's operations.

Therefore we request that, in the course of considering the 2018-2022 Council Governance Review report, the terms of reference for the Transit Commission be amended so that operational issues such as the Fall Transit Service Schedule, the Winter Transit Service Schedule and the Summer Transit Service Schedule, etc. are also considered by the Transit Commission and must be recommended by the Transit Commission to City Council for approval, similar to the manner in which other City standing committees operate. In this way Councillors will be better able to act on constituent concerns, and be held accountable by their constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

*Sheila Perry*

President, FCA

cc City Clerk