

Council on Ageing submission to Joint meeting of Planning and ARAC, August 22

In response to our discussion on July 18, the Council on Aging (CoA) is in agreement with your goals. CoA's response is to use its voice on the Parking Stakeholders Group, which is reviewing the city's parking strategy now under way. With 8 parking spots for every car in Ottawa the CoA feels that this is an opportunity to start. The CoA has been able to get a verbal agreement from the Parking section to pay for Class A snow clearance level in all paid parking areas. CoA is still advocating that recommendations to Transportation Committee in November include no parking minimums, parking rates start at rate for transit, vehicle free zones (800m) around LRT/. These are some of the items we are looking at. CoA believes that cities are for people and to this end a walkable environment is needed. Gardening and greenery are important to the well being of ones mentally and physically abilities. So with intensification will come better walkability. With walkability we get people out to socialize, shop, get some exercise. We also believe that cities are for people not cars. To this end we have asked that parking pay for Class A level snow clearance just like the road. I sit on the Parking Stakeholders Group, representing CoA and got a verbal notice that the city's Parking Management will recommend that paid parking will pay for Class A level snow clearance. The CoA also encourages gardening and footpaths along with more rural outreach. Thus health clinics, better rural to rural transit along with rural-urban transit. The major concerns of CoA is "living in place" and senior isolation. Measures to minimize this is supported by the CoA.