

OSHAWA COUNCILLOR BRIAN NICHOLSON COMES OUT SWINGING

OSHAWA - Through the years. Oshawa and the Region have surely had their share of wacky ideas. Most of them failed or end up costing tax payers. This time around. Ward 5 Councillor Brian Nicholson, better known as the Robin Hood of south Oshawa for always going out of his way to help citizens, has come out swinging against a proposed plan to introduce a 'gondola' program to Oshawa. It is so ridiculous that he took it to Facebook and vented his frustration. He posted: Here we go again.... what is next? Flying cars. A few months ago, I posted online that the Region of Durham wanted to investigate building a \$1 BILLION gondola transit system on Simcoe Street South from Lakeview Park to Durham College. Today, Regional Staff asked for \$3 million to continue their investigation into this boondoggle. Many of us asked strong questions at Regional Council but instead of killing this project completely, by a 13-9 vote, Council decided to send it back to staff to develop a communication strategy to sell this plan to you. They claim that the Feds or the Province will pay for the cost. What they do not tell you is you, the Durham Taxpayers, will have to pay the annual operating costs and for all the other improvements to the transit to feed riders into the gondolas. In my opinion, there is only one answer that Regional Council should give to this boondoggle and that answer is NO. That is how I voted today and how I will vote moving forward. There are times while in office that I shake my head at the sheer stupidity of actions being proposed. The proposal to put arial gondolas along Simcoe Street to move people rather than by vehicles at a project cost of more than \$1 Billion is a prime example of this. I do not support this project as there are far better options to expend limited tax dollars than on pipe dreams like this. Here is some information for your perusal. Elevated cable cars preferred transit option to serve Simcoe Street corridor in Oshawa. It's not exactly flying cars but the future of transit on Oshawa's Simcoe Street may seem nearly as outlandish if the preferred option of the

team developing a rapid transit line on the busy corridor ever sees the light of day. Aerial cable cars. And yes, for those fans of the Simpsons, a monorail was also under consideration but was rejected. Durham Region and its consultants - including a company developing gondola-style transit systems around the world - are expecting the skepticism after choosing cable cars at about \$1 billion as the best option for the future transit line up Oshawa's main north-south thoroughfare. "We understand the public is going to be skeptical and council is going to be skeptical. It's a new technology," said Durham Region's David Dunn, who gave an update on the Simcoe Street Transit Study at an Economic and Development Services Committee meeting. "A large part of our plan moving forward will be in educating people so they can make informed decisions and they don't just see this as a novel approach." The aerial cable system, a Bus Rapid Transit line (which is being implemented on Kingston Road from the Scarborough Town Centre to the new Oshawa central GO station), an LRT line and monorails were all in the mix during the initial phase of studies and public consultation. The latter two options - goodbye monorail - were tossed out by the project team, leaving the cable cars and the BRT as the final two being considered. Dunn believes the cable car system is the way to go, as it moves more passengers - 9.7 million per year vs 8.9 million for the BRT - and is less intrusive to the environment as it doesn't need any traffic lanes to be ripped out. Simcoe Street currently handles 13,000 vehicles a day and with traffic expected to nearly double by 2051, removing a traffic lane for the BRT will just lead to more congestion, Dunn added. The initial capital costs for the aerial car system are bit higher at \$770 million vs \$550 million and the total cost to implement cable will run close to \$1 billion in today's dollars, with the BRT coming in at about \$700 million. Revenue from the aerial car concept will be significantly higher, however, with annual revenue estimated at \$18.9 million and the added bonus of decreased traffic on the roads. The BRT system would bring in about \$14.2 million a year.

The cost to build an LRT on the route is estimated to be about \$5 billion. A subway serving Simcoe Street - which wasn't one of the options - would cost at least \$20 billion. The funding for the project - whichever option is ultimately chosen - will come from the federal and provincial governments, Dunn said. "We don't expect the (local) taxpayer to bear the cost of this. It's too much of an investment to make." **By their own admission, this would generate \$14.2-18.9 million a year but cost over \$1 Billion to build (not counting annual maintenance and staffing). That would take over 100 years to recover the investment.** In my view, it is better to spend limited funds on housing and support for those in need than build pipe dreams in the sky. I will not vote for any elected representative, whether federal, provincial or local who supports this boondoggle. As soon as this hit FB. People started responding. Here are a few: **Robert Kidd** Is this for real, or is this some kind of morbid joke? As expensive as it is in Oshawa these idiots can't really be looking at putting gondolas along Simcoe Street. **Brian Nicholson** This is the Region of Durham not the City of Oshawa. **Robert Kidd** This tax or that tax. It is still going to cost me more money for something so ridiculous (stupid). **Maggie Gudgeon Fielding** Now that the miles of construction is done, I don't see the need to even consider an alternative. But this idea is beyond ridiculous! Take the 3mill they want & put it solving or helping the homeless situation in the Lakeview to downtown core! Also what a lovely idea that After raising our various taxes, we not only will be covering the upkeep AND paying to use it, but we're ultimately paying staff to go back and prep a better sales pitch!!! **Brian Nicholson** Maggie Gudgeon Fielding No money for shelters or housing, but \$3m to study gondolas. **Maggie Gudgeon Fielding** Brian Nicholson seriously!! No offense to you Brian, but that whole office needs to be replaced! **Josh Campbell** I mean can't put this 3 million towards the Murals that need repair, but you can give it to a group who are gonna

"research" about a proposal? **Brian Nicholson** The murals are managed by the City of Oshawa. This expenditure and project is managed by the Region of Durham. The use of the funds at each level is restricted by legislation. **Christopher J Schiller** I absolutely cannot believe that an LRT system would cost 5 times that of a gondola. **Nancy Zimny** Thanks for the update. The taxpayers have had enough of the foolishness of the current council. Most people are barely hanging on. Council should realize it is unaffordable right now. I can't wait for elections to get rid of these fools! **Anonymous participant 788** As someone who works for the Region, I agree that this is just a ridiculous idea. Management really needs to think about. **Mike Lymer** Chances are everybody who's heard this idea, including those proposing it, thinks it's a stupid idea. The people proposing it don't actually want to build it, they just want whatever funding is available to "study" how pointless it is while the taxpayer loses track in the municipal bureaucracy which is neither accountable nor transparent with the money.. **Michael Griffin** Actually insane how stupid this is. Our downtown is practically a garbage dump with no reason to visit. They should invest the millions into revitalizing the core and making Oshawa some place people actually want to visit **John Daniel** This is completely ridiculous - absolutely beyond the pale. Regional councillors must be laughing at us. They aren't even pretending to hide the level of utter contempt they have for us. **Jean Odonnell** Thanks for being a source of common sense among the crazy so called leader. **Doris Paterson** This is a bloody ridiculous idea, we need more affordable housing before you think of ludicrous ideas like this. **Marcel Lebel** And this is why our property taxes keep going up **Dave Thompson** That's in my ward ward 4. Are these politicians out to lunch. **Susan Jobse** Thank you for bringing the update Mr. Nicholson. Like others, I'd like to keep my taxes toward something feasible, like a better bus transit system, or housing/mental health workers for the homeless, and not for something this ridiculous. Does the 3Million propaganda machine planning to give out red hats with MOGA (Make Oshawa Great Again) on them. **Will Prentice** This shows how out of touch the planners and engineers are in Durham Region. There needs to be more oversight by someone who isn't university educated because clearly you can't buy intelligence. **Heather Moore** Why are they wasting money exploring this option. It is beyond ridiculous. Oshawa is more than Simcoe Street. What a waste of taxpayers money!! Pay me 3million. I'll

tell you it's a waste of time!!! **Nancy Guscott** This has got to be a sick joke!! A chance to get an aerial view of rundown, closed businesses, the "ghetto" section from Wentworth St., to Adelaide Ave., with highlights of the embarrassing downtown area!! WOW!!!!? **James Sexsmith** Nancy Guscott good one Nancy, maybe we should build it along the Oshawa Creek! **Susan MP** I don't find Simcoe as congested as Ritson between Adelaide and King, especially between 3-7 pm. Will we get them there as well? Evelyn Hunter So these "friends" of the minority in city council are scamming us to

the tune of 3 mill. **Johnnie Niles** Bring Oshawa a water park we already have Simcoe st to get to lake. **Adam Wilson** Johnnie Niles better and easier yet. BRING BACK BOATING. Docks, and rentable mooring with dockside restaurants, shops and things that you would find in coboconk, Fenlon etc. accessible from land, can still do Uber, brings use to boardwalk. Hell throw a floating island out there with a lifeguard that's dock accessible for the landlocked. With all this input. Does the City or Region need a study? Tough crowd to educate. What is your take?

CLARINGTON INCREASES FINES FOR STOPPING IN SCHOOL ZONES, PARKED CARS INTERFERING WITH SNOW REMOVAL

Clarington, ON - Clarington Council has updated the Traffic By-law, resulting in increased fines for recurring traffic issues, such as parking in prohibited areas and parking on the street during snow-clearing operations. Previously, no-stopping fines ranged from \$45 to \$60. Fines have now increased to \$75, with an early payment option of \$50. The increased fines aim to deter parking violations in designated no-stopping areas, which are primarily located near schools, intersections, pedestrian crossings, and emergency access routes. It's about keeping travel lanes clear for buses and emergency vehicles, improving traffic flow, and ensuring school zones are safe for children who walk to school. As part of this by-law amendment, Council also directed staff to increase the fine for parked cars interfering with snow removal, from \$60 (\$45 early payment) to \$75 (\$50 early payment). Parking on

the street during the winter months can limit snowplow operators' ability to effectively clear routes. "Clarington residents deserve safe roads, especially around schools, pedestrian crossings and emergency routes. That's why we're working to discourage drivers from parking and idling in no-stopping zones. If we all do our part, we can make sure our streets are safe for everyone," said Mayor Adrian Foster. Clarington Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will be joining forces with Durham Regional Police to enforce parking and traffic regulations around schools as part of the In the Zone traffic safety blitz the week of January 6. Supporting the proactive management of community safety and well-being is part of Clarington's 2024-27 Strategic Plan, which also includes reducing speed limits in school zones and developing a Traffic Calming Plan aimed at making roads safer throughout Clarington.



Happy 90th Birthday, Helen!

Mayor Ashe of Pickering visited in celebration. He was noted stating "It was such a joy to celebrate this incredible milestone with Helen, her family, friends, and community members at the East Shore Community Centre. I was honoured to attend and present her with a Congratulatory Scroll to to commemorate this special occasion. Helen, your legacy of kindness, dedication, and community spirit is truly inspiring. Here's to many more years of health and happiness!" If you're a #Pickering resident or organization celebrating an anniversary, birthday, special honour, or outstanding community service, be sure to apply for a Milestone Certificate! For more info, visit <https://www.pickering.ca/.../milestonecertificate.aspx>

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