

June 14, 2023

Renée Amilcar
General Manager, Transit Services Department
By email: renee.amilcar@ottawa.ca

Dear Ms. Amilcar:

It was a pleasure to recently meet you and connect regarding Ottawa Public Library (OPL) and City of Ottawa services including transit. Congratulations on your election as president of the International Association of Public Transport – an honor for you and for the city!

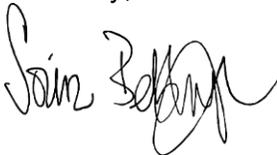
As mentioned, OPL is currently developing a Facilities Master Plan (FMP), a comprehensive document that prioritizes all investments to support the building, maintenance, and renewal of library facilities. Part of this process includes an analysis of findings from public engagement conducted in 2022 regarding a draft Facilities Framework.

The OPL Board received the summary report regarding the outcomes of the public engagement in November 2022 as part of the approval of the Facilities Framework. The report noted public feedback that the current OC Transpo service in some neighbourhoods makes it difficult for residents to access community hubs such as libraries. Respondents to the public engagement indicated that ease of public transit service to OPL locations was important to them. There was a significantly strong desire for branches to be located by large transit 'hubs' such as bus terminals and LRT stations rather than individual neighbourhood stops that operate less frequently. While access to larger transit stations and hubs is included among our site evaluation criteria for future development, bus access to existing branches is a priority, especially for equity-seeking neighbourhoods.

Given that the City of Ottawa is conducting an OC Transpo Bus Route Review that seeks to optimize the existing transit system, we request that the Transit Services Department consider ease of neighbourhood access to library branches when conducting the OC Transpo Bus Route Review.

Thank you for a wonderful introductory meeting, and for your consideration of transit access to libraries. I look forward to connecting in the future.

Sincerely,



Sonia Bebbington
Chief Librarian & CEO

c.c. Matt Luloff, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board, Councillor Orléans East-Cumberland
OPL Board Trustees
Glen Gower, Chair, Chair of the Transit Commission, Councillor Stitsville