

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mailbox, Clerks](#)
Subject: Correspondence for Former Robert Bateman High School adaptive reuse update (EICS-02-23)
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:35:30 PM

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Hi...I would like to provide comments for Council consideration with regards to this item.

Looking at the report, based on the minimum parking requirements under the City's zoning bylaw, there is a deficiency of 133 spaces for Phase 1 of the redevelopment of this community facility. In order to resolve this deficiency, the report proposes requesting a variance from the Committee of Adjustment. I would support this variance but feel that it should not be necessary and there is justification for maintaining the current parking or reducing the parking provided to retain the track and field facility until after Phase 1 is completed.

I am concerned that this is another example of how the City of Burlington prioritizes the storage of cars as the top priority over other needs. As a result, the city's taxpayers will be required to pave over additional greenspace, and the existing track and field facility will be lost to residents. It is noted that as part of the land purchase, the existing track and field facility at Central was sold to the Halton District School Board. Ultimately the result is two fewer track facilities in the city that could be available for public recreation.

Back in 2019, I had delegated to Council recommending the removal of minimum parking requirements, as these represent a continued subsidy that reinforce the cycle of automobile dependence that continues to challenge your efforts to make progress on the management of automobile traffic, building complete communities and supporting the city's GHG targets. The imposition of these policies adds costs to the already sizable amount required to complete this project. Furthermore, the placement of additional parking at the rear of the facility will be inconvenient for many users.

I also would like to commend Staff on the Integrated Transit Plan presented in the appendix highlighting the opportunities for transit and active transportation to be improved to serve this site. One of my biggest concerns with respect to our city's investment in Bateman has been its alignment with the MTSA at Appleby GO. Bateman will be the primary community centre serving that future community. With the 1.9km distance from what is to be a dense urban node, it is in that "sweet spot" that is too far for residents to walk regularly, but too short for efficient transit access without much higher frequencies.

I am encouraged to see that this report recognizes that by providing improved transit and active transportation links between these locations that the amount of parking required (and therefore the impacts of this project combined with other future development on the community) can be significantly reduced. Hopefully it can be reduced to an extent which would allow the community to retain the track and field facility as a valuable community asset.

Thank you,
Chris Ariens