I am assigning Doreen Pruden as my proxy to read this letter on my behalf.

Nov. 24, 2004

Dear City Councilors:

I am hereby making a written submission to this public hearing (unfortunately I couldn't attend because I have to work like most other people) to voice my disapproval of your amendment to remove the Oak Point Transit Corridor from Plan Winnipeg. I feel this is a shortsighted move by the city, which forever closes the door on an important future route for cross-city rapid transit. If this route were developed it would encourage thousands of commuters to use public transit and would produce a cleaner environment for our city.

This potential rapid transit route could take considerable pressure off Metro Route 90 which is the highest traffic flow route in the city with some 70 000 – 80 000 vehicles per day using the St James Bridge. Metro Route 90 is only going to get busier especially if the city goes ahead with their plans to build Waverly West. This potential route would allow residents of St James, River Heights and Charleswood to access the University of Manitoba and residents of Fort Gary to access the Polo Park Shopping area, which is now going to be expanded after the demolition of the old Winnipeg Arena. The Polo Park area is already experiencing extreme traffic flow congestion and with the future expansion of Polo Park, the largest mall in the city, it would only be prudent to keep this transit corridor in Plan Winnipeg!

The problem here is <u>not</u> Plan Winnipeg but the city councilors lack of foresight for not purchasing the bridge and the whole rail line when it was offered to them for a song, four years ago by the CNR railway! It's too late too do anything about the northern section since the land has already been sold and built on by Canadian Tire, Future Shop, Best Buy etc. but the southern section including the bridge could still be salvaged by buying this land and the bridge back from the developers who have not as yet built on it. Even if the City can't afford to do anything with it right now they should purchase this land and the bridge back for future rapid transit! Does the city have enough fortitude to do that or are they going to allow the Condos on the Bridge Project to go ahead hoping to cover up their bungling of the original opportunity? The city councilors need to do what they were elected to do that is representing the best interests of the public and not themselves. The original intention of Plan Winnipeg offers the greatest benefits for the citizens of Winnipeg. I therefore encourage the city councilors **<u>not</u>** to support this amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ed Hume

Ed Hume
Organizer of Citizens Against Condos on the Bridge
www.condosonthebridge.com