Mr. Mayor, Councillors of the Executive Policy Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for this opportunity to address you all.

My name is Tim Anthony, and I am a private citizen who has lived here for 40 years. And, unlike just about everyone who spoke yesterday, I have no personal axe to grind. I am here only as a person who wishes to live the remainder of his life in this beautiful city, and preferably near to the once-vibrant centre of it, as I do now. So I do believe I speak for many, many other Winnipeggers.

I am very much against the proposed amendment before the committee. To give a little perspective: if Bus Rapid Transit was judged to need more study, then I would really have to say: It's a pretty short leap of logic to deduce that this one needs further study too. A LOT of further study, perhaps over a fairly extended period of time. In fact, it should not even be considered much further until Plans for such a Rapid Transit System for the South part of Winnipeg have been completed, and its construction has begun. THAT would make some SENSE.

Yesterday's hearing commenced with Mr. Harry Finnegan telling you all that this process, of attempting to bring major changes to existing policy, is driven by property owners. Not owners of houses, or of housing lots, but owners of Virgin land that is at the South-West corner of the South West quadrant of Winnipeg proper. He named just TWO such entities: Ladco, and the Province of Manitoba. But before very long, Mr. Alan Borger, representing one of those entities (frankly, I do prefer the term "speculators"), seemed to bolster his position as an interested party by pointing out, with noticeable urgency, that he was in a minority of FOUR financial interests, not merely TWO.

But I am here to present views of a much, much bigger minority. In fact, I doubt if it is really a minority at all.

Yesterday you were told, over and over and over again, that your Winnipeg, which is my Winnipeg too, is a city in decline. And you were warned, over and over again, that soon young people are going to begin a stampede to Calgary, and other places – any place but Winnipeg. You were warned that the crucial Trades people of our local Construction industries will lead that stampede, leaving behind a gutted wreck of an industry.

You were told to hurry up, and get a move on. To stop "dawdling". Gentlemen, as I listened to them, it all grated on my nerves. If someone was telling me, on my

turf, how to run my affairs in such stark and insistent terms, I think I would ask them to leave my house. Understandably, you did not have that prerogative, and even if you did, you might feel bound to hear them anyway. Toward the end of yesterday, several presenters actually had the unmitigated GALL to warn you about people like myself, who might have something to say about all of this. A couple seemed to be asking you to ignore us. I hope you ignored all that. One, a city counselor, even fed you a question to ask each of us opponents. I'll get around to that point later.

Other things grated on my nerves too. I heard the term 'sprawl' redefined a number of different ways, all of them very creative, none of them very convincing. For the purpose of this process, I would urge the committee to use the better known and more conventional definitions of that loaded word.

Yesterday I had to listen to so many people talking about the interests of others that I began to wonder if the evolutionists had got it all wrong, and that maybe there actually is such a thing as pure altruism in the human species. But then it occurred to me that perhaps they were just kidding about caring so much about everybody except themselves.

Someone, it doesn't matter who, even said that there are no environmental issues to be concerned about. One wonders how he defines the word Environment, and what he thinks an Issue is. By simple definition, there MUST be environmental issues!

Here's an environmental issue: our aging sewer system need 2/3 of a billion dollars invested, SOON, to fix it so it doesn't keep on spewing raw sewage into the Red River every time it storms here. Shouldn't we fix that before we start developing new land for more sprawling, unneeded suburbs?

Here's another one: Waverley West would put more cars and SUVs on the roads of Winnipeg, with each one driving ever greater distances. This, while the Prime Minister is telling Canadians to do THEIR part to reduce fossil fuel emissions to help the nation meet our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol that we have signed onto. In addition to the pollution, there will obviously be significant increases in Street maintenance, and the City would have to pay for it.

Without a Rapid Transit solution, we are going to run into congestion problems on Pembina, Waverley, Kenaston, Moray, Wilkes, McGillivray, Bishop Grandin – unless costly upgrades are made. Also, Taylor, Grant, and even Stafford will almost certainly suffer from spillover effects, and let's not forget that those latter

streets are residential. I guess I'm really talking about property values, and the attendant taxes. Even Confusion Corner may see an effect on traffic, and that's almost downtown!

No environmental issues? Isn't paving over 3000 acres, which is easier to visualize as being 4½ square miles of land inside the perimeter, an environmental issue? I think it is an environmental issue.

Insofar as Ladco and the Province of Manitoba are major speculators, one might even use the term 'gamblers', may I remind the 'house' that the fate of gamblers is in the hands of the gamblers, not the house! And that means: you do not OWE them their payoff.

I object to the notion of the Province profiteering to the tune of $228 million over 23 years (their figures, by the way) at the expense of the City of Winnipeg. I object to the notion of a single business entity, namely Ladco, trying to change the rules so it can profit at our expense too. It makes me think of a shark's feeding frenzy!

And what <u>are</u> we to make of all these housing developers jumping in and trying to get the rules done away with? I have never seen so many well-heeled anarchists in all my time here!

As for Mr. Steek's concerns about where we are supposed to house people:

Infill housing! The southern part of the North End, from the CP tracks north to Redwood Avenue and from the Red River all the way west to McPhillips Street. On the land between Elmwood and Transcona, on both sides of the railway that lies just south of Nairn and Regent Avenues. Tear down that <u>monstrous</u> Tim Hortons coffee shop in St. Boniface and use THAT land, and all the land to the east of it too. On the land south of Taylor – you know: south of the Pan Am pool? What happened to those plans – I saw them once, years ago? And, if you're NOT going to build a Rapid Transit system (which by the way, I hope you are), well that opens up a fair bit of centrally located land too.

And don't just infill with more single-dwelling houses, put in duplexes, multiple condominiums, and well-appointed apartment blocks. Bring people back to the centre of Winnipeg and <u>build this city</u>! Stop building disconnected villages that cost a fortune and bring in relatively little revenue.

These options will buy the City the <u>TIME</u> needed to study this huge project in the depth it deserves. It would allow the residents (dare I call them 'constituents?) of this fair city to speak their Minds

I grew up partly in ~~the~~ Britain, where there is twice Canada's population living in an area similar to that of Lake Winnipeg. Yet they have lots of beautiful towns and villages and cities, AND lots of beautiful countryside. How do they do it? One word: Planning.

Thank you. That concludes my presentation.