

LIGHT RAIL PLAN APPROVAL

The massive \$2.1 billion Light Rail Transit and Tunnel Project has been approved. Work on the 12.5 km transit way from Blair Road to Tunney's Pasture and the 3.2 km downtown tunnel is expected to start in 2011. The City's LRT plan, through a downtown tunnel, will provide citizens with rapid and reliable service while creating jobs and improving our environment. The tunnel will take buses off downtown streets, reduce operating costs, and make the transit system sustainable for generations to come.

This project will contribute the following to the City's economy:

- Creation of some 20 000 person years of employment.
- Economic activity of \$3.2 billion in the City through construction alone.
- A redesigned bus system will yield up to \$100 million in annual operating cost savings, beginning in 2019.
- Removal of more than half of the buses from the downtown core.
- Reduction of the City's fuel consumption by 10 million litres annually.

Rural residents do not pay any Property Taxes toward this Project. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have reviewed the Light Rail Plan and have each committed \$600 million.