

Philippa von Ziegenweidt  
6396 Riverside Drive East  
Windsor, ON N8S 189

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To the Members of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee:

#### **4.4 Brainstorming for Future Priorities**

I am writing to you in connection with agenda item 4.4. I have a prior commitment on Tuesday afternoon, so I hope you will consider the information in this letter and include it as an attachment to the minutes.

Last week Stats Canada released data relating to aging from the 2016 Census. It came too late for the Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee, but since many seniors also have accessibility issues, and given the aging of our community, I believe it to be equally pertinent to the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee.

My husband is a plastic surgeon who spends most of his time operating on patients with skin cancers. During the 24 years that he has been in practice in Windsor, he has noticed a significant aging of his patient population that is consistent with population trends, as well as increased referral rates from the ER. While I am writing to you for myself, and not on my husband's behalf, I am sure you will understand that my position as his spouse and his office manager inform my understanding of some of the barriers to healthcare experienced by many of our more vulnerable residents.

Specifically, I am writing about my concerns surrounding access to healthcare services under the proposed Windsor Essex Hospitals Plan. Under this plan, we will lose both two acute care hospitals (Met and Ouellette campuses). These will be replaced by outpatient services in the core. You are no doubt aware that the proposed new mega-hospital is to be built on County Road 42, 15km from where this meeting is being held.

Many residents with accessibility issues live in downtown because of the concentration of amenities there. I have spoken with many people with chronic medical conditions who live there so they can be closer to hospital and who are very worried about the mega-hospital plan. Under the proposal, they stand to lose access to essential healthcare services.

I believe this proposal contravenes Ontario Planning Policy in several respects. Windsor's Official Plan, too, promotes development to meet all its residents' needs: Regarding people with disabilities and seniors specifically:

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**Ontario Planning Policy**

1.1.1. Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons by identifying, preventing and removing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society.

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**Windsor's Official Plan**

4.2.2.4 Promote development that meets human needs and is compatible with the natural environment.

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**Creating Barriers to Healthcare**

For those who don't drive, a hospital 15 km away can be a significant barrier to healthcare. The proposed Urgent Care Centre (UCC) in the core is intended for non life-threatening conditions, will not accept ambulances, and will not have overnight stays. In addition, many patients will find themselves given referrals for follow up treatment at surgical clinics, not at the UCC, but at the hospital.

**Transit**

In Council Chambers, in 2016, we heard that the City is planning to provide transit service to the hospital at a cost of \$2M/year from three shuttle points (please refer to the attached map where they are marked with green dots).

My concerns are that residents with disabilities and seniors who live in the downtown core will need to take more than one bus to reach the hospital because of the location of these shuttle points; also, because of the cost to operate this service, there is a risk that service will be cut during low volume times. This could put patients at risk if they have no other means of getting to the hospital.

### **Taxi**

I have attached a chart that compares return taxi fares to hospital today, and the proposed new hospital location. For somebody living on a limited income, the trip to County Road 42 could be prohibitively expensive.

I have taken some pertinent facts from the Census and compiled these into the map attached to this letter. It shows where the highest numbers of Windsor's seniors live today.

Of course, many with impaired accessibility live elsewhere too, but what I am most worried about is the loss of healthcare services for the many who already live in the core, if the mega-hospital proposal goes ahead as planned.

Our community needs a better plan for its new hospital. It is essential that it be accessible to those in the core. Satellite facilities in the county need to be part of the plan as well. It should not be necessary to sacrifice access for our most vulnerable residents in Windsor's core to make healthcare more accessible to those who live in the county.

I hope you will find this analysis helpful as you brainstorm your committee's priorities.

Sincerely

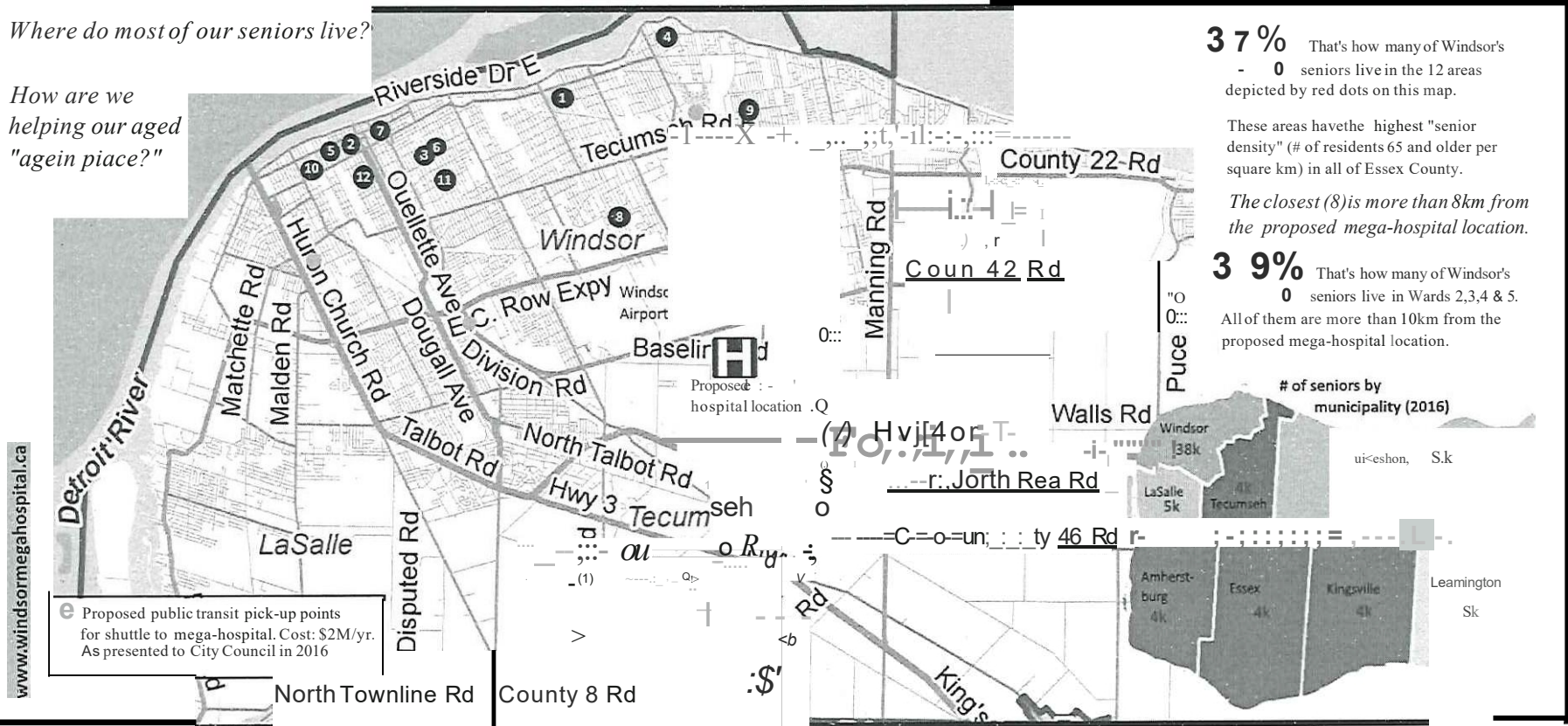
Philippa von Ziegenweidt

Attachments:

- 1.. Map
2. Taxi Fares

Where do most of our seniors live?

How are we helping our aged "age in place"?

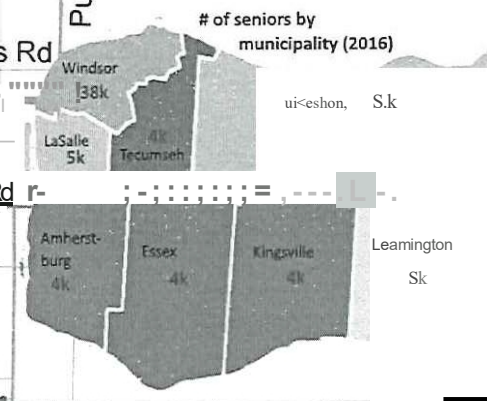


**37%** That's how many of Windsor's - 0 seniors live in the 12 areas depicted by red dots on this map.

These areas have the highest "senior density" (# of residents 65 and older per square km) in all of Essex County.

The closest (8) is more than 8km from the proposed mega-hospital location.

**39%** That's how many of Windsor's 0 seniors live in Wards 2,3,4 & 5. All of them are more than 10km from the proposed mega-hospital location.



The proposed greenfield mega-hospital location contravenes Planning Policy and Windsor's Official Plan. it increases land use barriers for seniors. It forces more driving and reduces the compactness of our urban form.

**Ontario Planning Policy**  
 1.1.1 Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons by identifying, preventing and removing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society.

**Windsor Official Plan**  
 4.2.2.3 encourage community planning, design and development that is sustainable.  
 4.2.2.4 promote development that meets human needs and is compatible with the natural environment.

Geo graphic name	Central point	ward	65+	OT senior; /km	17.7%
5590040	1 Rossini & Wyandotte	5	2,050	1,708	40%
5590032	2 Park & Church	3	955	1,151	20%
5590033	3 Mercer & Broadhead	3	965	985	20%
5590043.01	4 wyandotte & Westcheste	6	<b>1,410</b>	959	28%
5590031	5 University & Oak	3	410	953	27%
5590034	6 Langlois & Niagara	4	590	728	14%
5590035	7 Glengarry & University	3	725	718	20%
5590018.03	8 Westminster & Joinville	8	1,005	679	29%
5590019.03	9 McHugh & Magnolia	7	2,445	586	24%
5590030	10 Martindale & McEwan	2	500	575	15%
5590021	11 Shepherd & Langlois	4	580	552	15%
5590026	12 Pine & Church	3	500	505	13%

Round Trip Taxi Fare to Current Closest Hospital vs Proposed Mega Hospital Location by Ward,  
in Declining Order of Cost

www.windsormegahospital.ca

