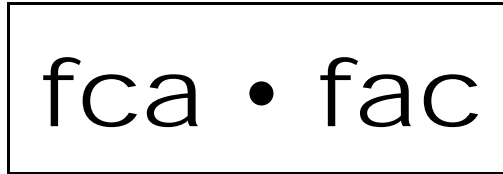


Federation of
Citizens'
Associations of
Ottawa-Carleton



Fédération des
associations
civiques d'Ottawa-
Carleton

Submission to Planning & Environment Committee

June 26, 2007

**Item 11: Richmond Road/Westboro Community Design Plan and Zoning
By-law Amendment**

Numerous residents and several Community Associations have participated in the public advisory committee in the preparation of the Community Design Plan which is before the Committee. In their presentations various interveners will be asking that the Community Design Plan be adopted by Council as a Secondary Plan and constitute an annex to the Official Plan of the city.

The question of the status of Community Design Plans has long been a subject of concern to the community associations which compose the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

Some members of this committee will recall that the FCA has previously indicated the importance we attach to Community Design Plans. Drawing up a CDP takes hundreds of hours of volunteer time in workshops and other forms of consultation.

Frankly, the word is out in the community that this effort may not be worth it.

We have on many occasions indicated that we believe that Council is over-eager to offer spot amendments to the zoning by-law. Many of the community association delegates have voiced the view that mere mention of the word "intensification" is enough to have a spot amendment of the zoning by-law accepted by Council.

Against such a background it is disturbing to think that all the effort that went into the development of a Community Design Plan can be for naught as zoning amendment applications are speeded through a process that looks to the observer like rubber-stamping.

It is to give some authority to Community Design Plans that we urge the committee to recommend to full Council that this CDP be adopted as a Secondary Plan. In such event casual spot rezoning will be slightly impeded and there may be some small hope that the CDP will have some meaningful effect on the development of the community.