

# More bus changes coming

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EMC News - After hosting several public meetings regarding transit issues in Orléans, OC Transpo has heard and received comments from residents and has proposed several changes to express bus routes in the east end.

OC Transpo implemented several changes to its bus services across Ottawa on September 6. The changes were approved by city councillors in May after numerous public consultations, including one in Orléans in April.

Residents who attended the public meeting were unhappy, voicing concerns about cutting several routes which would lead to less service overall, which could potentially cause overcrowding on other buses.

"Since the open house, there have been a lot of issues for the residents of Orléans," said Orléans Coun. Bob Monette. "Initially, we were furious with what was proposed."

Even with OC Transpo making changes to routes across the city in September, there were still concerns from area residents, most notably, stops made at Place d'Orléans.

"We have been working on these changes since March," added the east end councillor.

OC Transpo is proposing that the current express routes 20, 22 and 35 no longer stop at Place D'Orléans in the morning peak period.

Routes 20 and 35 have been servicing the stops since September. According to statistics from OC Transpo, 18 riders a day have been using these stops to Place d'Orléans. These riders can still take routes 120, 122 and 135, but at a reduced frequency. OC Transpo users travelling downtown may

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have a shorter travel time on the express routes, depending on traffic on the 174. OC Transpo staff still recommend routes 21 and 27 continue at Place d'Orléans because both buses arrive at the east end shopping centre through Champlain Road and not the 174. Route 27 also provides a direct connection to Gatineau from Place d'Orléans.

"This is just common sense," said Monette. "Why would we have a stop that no one uses. The purpose of the express bus is for people is to go from point A to point B as quick as possible."