

Circular thinking prevails in vote

The city's transportation committee has approved what would be the largest roundabout in Ottawa.

The two-lane roundabout is planned for the intersection of St. Joseph and Jeanne d'Arc boulevards in Orleans.

Orleans Coun. Bob Monette said he will vote against the project when it comes to city council. Monette said he has received more e-mails against the project than those that support it.

The project is backed by the Heart of Orleans BIA, which has hired a consultant for the design and implementation plan. The city has secured \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funding for the project.

Pedestrian crossings

The roundabout is expected to calm traffic in all directions. There would be pedestrian crossings at the approaches to the roundabout.

Public works general manager John Manconi told the committee "there are so many benefits" to roundabouts, including safety and environmental advantages.

There have been 65 crashes at the intersection over the past three years. The intersection is currently controlled by traffic lights.

City council still has to approve the project. If council doesn't approve the plan, it would be downgraded to minor landscaping improvements in the corridor.

Half of the public responses have been in favour of the roundabout, planning staff said. Innes Coun. Rainer Bloess, who's on the transportation committee, said the city might have to do a "selling job" for the roundabout in the community.

— Jon Willing

