

Councillor pushes to cancel

Centrum extension

Orléans Star - 19 March, 2010

Orléans Coun. Bob Monette wants to axe the Centrum Boulevard extension and instead build a pedestrian path in its place.

The councillor is bringing forward a motion at the Tuesday, March 23 planning and environment committee meeting to amend the city's Official Plan, which calls for the extension. He's asking the

city to review the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian pathway and is calling for a public hearing on the matter no later than August.

According to the motion, the east-west Centrum Boulevard extension has been on the books since 1987.

"It does not make sense today," Monette said of

the decades-old plan.

While Monette has the backing of area residents and the local developer, city staff members want to move forward with the extension. Removal of the east-west extension would create a division between the central commercial area of the Town Centre and the future high density residential development to the east, staff indicated in a report. Deletion of the link would have a negative impact from a community, traffic and transit planning perspective, the report notes.

Not only will the extension connect the two ends of the neighbourhood, staff continued, but

the roadway will also provide improved access to local businesses in the Town Centre that are currently under "considerable competition from other nearby commercial concentrations," namely Innes Road and St. Joseph Boulevard.

As for traffic, axing the extension would force vehicles on St. Joseph, which is nearing capacity, or Prestone Drive, staff noted.

Monette said he doesn't know if his motion to replace the roadway extension with a pedestrian path will face opposition. He indicated even if it doesn't get through planning and environment, he'll still take the issue to council. (PL)