

## **Cars still rule**

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A global problem demands a global fix (think globally).

Act fast to halt urban sprawl (act locally).

A key document guiding how urban areas develop is the urban plan. Pierrefonds-Roxboro is modifying its urban plan and suggests the plan presents a 10-year vision for the borough that should be seen as a kind of social contract among the local government, citizens and public and private interests.

Oddly, in these times of climate change, automobile-centred development is still a cornerstone of our revised urban plan.

I presented a brief at the recent consultation, in which I showed that climate change is happening now and presents real and measurable risks to urban areas and their citizens. I mentioned two risks: our warming temperatures will create more frequent hot and smoggy summer heat waves; and a greater frequency of high precipitation events will put stress on local infrastructure and increase local flooding. Cities should be aware of these and other climate-induced urban risks, and one would think that they should start planning now to adapt, promoting development that minimize our contribution to these risks.

If climate change will cause predictable types of health and safety issues for urban dwellers, do city officials have an obligation to minimize their citizens' exposure to these known risks by including in their urban plans a clear risk-management strategy?

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