

Opening Session

John A. Bonsall, Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transit Commission — presiding

Conference Introduction

John A. Bonsall

Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transit Commission



It is a pleasure to welcome you to Ottawa and the Sixth National Conference on High-Occupancy Vehicle Systems. As with previous HOV conferences, we have a multitude of sessions covering different aspects of HOV facilities on the program. What is slightly different about the conference this year is the emphasis on that ultimate high-occupancy vehicle—the bus. We are very proud of the system of exclusive busways here in Ottawa and we are pleased to have the opportunity to host the conference. You will have the chance to see the different facilities during the tour tomorrow. I would also like to encourage each of you to use the bus pass included in your conference registration package for riding the system when you have some extra time.

I also want to invite you to attend the opening of the first freeway bus-only lane in Ontario on Wednesday morning. This facility is a shoulder bus lane on Highway 17 and the grand opening will take place this Wednesday morning. A bus will depart from the hotel to take you to the ceremony and will return in time for the final conference sessions.

I would like to thank a number of people for their help in organizing the conference. First, Rich Cunard and the TRB staff did an excellent job making all the necessary arrangements with the hotel. Second, I would like to thank Katie Turnbull for her assistance in organizing the

technical program for the conference. Finally, I would like to recognize my staff for their help in setting up the local tours. I hope all of you will enjoy the conference and the Ottawa area.

Conference Welcome

Peter Clark

Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transit Commission

Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton



Welcome to Ottawa, the capital city of Ontario. As Chairman of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transit Commission, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome you to the Sixth National Conference on HOV Systems and to Ottawa. We are pleased to be hosting the conference and to have you see the Transitway system here in Ottawa.

The Ottawa-Carleton area has a population of approximately 700,000 people. We are proud of our Transitway, bus system, bikeways, greenbelt, and roadway system. Currently, approximately 13 miles of the Ottawa Transitway have been put into operation, along with some ten miles of priority bus lanes. The Transitway has allowed us to gain more productivity out of our buses. With the amount of service we are providing today, we would need 145 more buses if we had not built the Transitway.

The Ottawa Transitway has also been effective in attracting new passengers and maintaining existing riders. Seven out of ten people who work downtown take the bus.