

Good evening Chair and committee members

Let us introduce ourselves Eva Amos and Lesley Taylor

We are presenting the petition “Stop The New Street Road Diet” on behalf of the 3000 plus residents who signed it.

The petition was started on Nov 11, 2016 and requests that the Council of Burlington return New Street between Guelph Line and Walkers Line to 4 lanes.

Many statistics have been collected and they can be used to support or negate both sides of the issue.

This removal of 2 lanes has created safety issues and unnecessary bottle necks in traffic including these factors which should be considered:

- . Merge area at New Street and Walkers Line where the cycle lanes begin are too short and actually dangerous.
- . Cars going around stopped buses and garbage trucks using the left turn lane as a passing lane. This creates the potential for a head on collision with cars approaching in the left turn lane.
- . Wait time and safety issues from feeder streets attempting to turn onto New Street
- . Backlog congestion between Appleby Line and the merge at Walkers Line. Idling cars adding to air pollution in this backlog.
- . You are being asked to vote on a year long pilot project which has incomplete data. A big piece of the information that is missing is the data for November, December and January due to equipment failure, months when travel times would likely have been the most affected.
- . Increased traffic on surrounding residential streets also has incomplete data as the rubber tubing used to count the cars is removed for the winter months.
- . The report from the transportation Department states there has been an increase in cyclists from 60 a day in June 2016 to 80 a day after the installation of the pilot project. The camera at New and Cumberland to record cyclists was only installed earlier this year. Anecdotally we can report that most of the comments on the petition were to say few to no cyclists were on the road. If there were any cyclists on New Street they were most often on the sidewalk. Statistically there doesn't appear to be any breakdown of how many cyclists were on the road and how many were on the sidewalk.

In addition to the online petition, opposition to the New Street Diet has been expressed via:

- . numerous letters to the editor published in the Burlington Post and The Hamilton Spectator
- . articles in the Burlington Post, The Hamilton Spectator and The Burlington Gazette
- . emails to individual councillors
- . phone calls to individual councillors
- . an hour long TV program “The Issue” on Feb 7, 2017
- . social media
- . in person meetings with individual councillors
- . a hard copy of a petition with an additional 647 signatures

In addition to the above, there are also facts, statistics and anecdotal reports that should play a role in a decision such as this: we've chosen a few of the many, many comments from the petition which we believe capture the essence of those expressed.

- . . Feeder streets such as Rexway, Spruce, Cumberland, Woodward and Pine Cove have seen a noticeable increase in traffic with cars trying to avoid New St. These are streets with schools and many young children.

- . Proximity to the multiuse path which runs just North of New Street. Most recreational cyclists and children are comfortable using the path due to safety concerns. Additionally many use the sidewalk as well.

- . Traffic congestion will only increase with the multistory building currently being built at New Street and Cumberland Ave as well as other intensification proposals in Burlington's Strategic Plan which is already in progress.

- . Cost of doing this pilot. Many felt it was money wasted and could have been put to much better use.

We're not anti-cycling. Many of us, our children and grandchildren are recreational cyclists. All communities should have bike paths.& these are already in place in South Burlington. Spruce St. which has been the designated "Bike Route" for quite some time, as well as the multi-use Centennial bike path running parallel to New Street.

Through signing the petition and taking the time to add their comments, 3280 residents of Burlington have spoken. It is our hope that the Council of Burlington will take this into consideration when casting their votes.

Thank you.