

To Mayor Meed Ward and Burlington City Councillors,

I am writing to you in regards to three issues that will affect Burlington's transportation network. I ask that they please be thoroughly considered.

Closure of Brant Street:

Keeping the principles in mind that were identified in the staff report TS-18-20, it is my opinion that closing Brant Street between Caroline and Lakeshore would be beneficial for the safety of the community and provide space for businesses to expand outdoors. Since the beginning of the State of Emergency people have become more active in walking and cycling in the community while at the same time streets have become raceways for people in their vehicles. Closing this stretch of Brant Street would allow walking and cycling (which is not allowed on sidewalks on this stretch) safely.

Restrictions on the amount of people may be in a space have led to long lines in which people must stay 6ft apart. The City and the Burlington Downtown Business Association could work together to provide additional space beyond a parking space for patios.

Should Council agree with this proposal, I would ask that it take effect as soon as possible and **that at the August 11th Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Committee meeting an update be provided with feedback from businesses and residents on whether or not this closure should continue beyond Labour Day weekend.**

Burlington Transit:

Council has demonstrated that Transit is a priority since elected by investing in new service and buses, new replacement buses, a transit strategy and a potential electric bus fleet. While Transit has been significantly impacted during COVID-19, it should be praised for not making drastic cuts and service cancellations that other agencies have made. Despite the drop in ridership and fears of what transit will look like in the coming months and years, it is more important than ever to continue the investment in Burlington Transit. Therefore, I ask that Council and Transit to finalize the Five-Year Business Plan, resume talks and update the public about free transit for students, share and consult with the public over September's service improvements (on Get Involved Burlington) and implement those changes. As mentioned above, it is extremely important for the investment in Burlington Transit to continue. Therefore, I ask that Council **consider accelerating the September 2021 service changes to begin in September 2020.** This may be done by using the \$3.2m in savings the city found from the projects that were tendered in early spring. The benefit of accelerating the

investment would mean added capacity on routes which would make passengers feel safer and better data collection to inform what changes should be made in 2022. Ridership is not going to suddenly shoot up when this crisis is over, it will take time and if the service and capacity is there, will increase.

Cycling:

My final request to Council is that the final version of the Cycling Master Plan and accompanying staff report be released on Get Involved Burlington. This report is several years overdue and continues to be pushed. I understand that this report is set to go before committee in September, however, if possible it should be released now and go before committee in August instead.

I hope that you will consider these requests thoroughly and if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Thomas D.