

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the draft City of Burlington Cycling Plan and strongly urge this committee to endorse.

While I do not claim any particular expertise on the subject of cycling infrastructure, I do have the experience of being a recreational cyclist for most of my life, and have lived and cycled in other Canadian municipalities including Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal. I am also a newly minted member of the Burlington Cycling Advisory Committee and am looking forward to working with the city on initiatives to promote the clear health, environmental and social benefits of cycling. (I by no means speak for the entire committee.)

It's encouraging to see that the plan addresses safety as the key issue many people have with getting around by bike in our fair city. This aligns with my own experience in speaking to friends and family about cycling around town: many express a clear desire to get on their bikes to shop, socialize and exercise, but simply do not feel safe on our busy roadways. I believe that a system of protected bike lanes will give people the necessary confidence to trade their cars in favour of their bikes when they have the opportunity to do so.

Supporting the shift to safer cycling also seems to tie into many of the city's larger priorities -- notably its declaration of a climate emergency. Burlington already has an exceptionally high rate of vehicle ownership. The volume of traffic our already clogged roads will only continue as we grow and density intensifies -- unless people are provided alternative forms of transportation. A system of protected bike lanes that links to public transit options can help to reduce the negative environmental impact of motorized vehicle trips.

Key to getting any element of this plan implemented, obviously, is funding. I strongly urge this committee and council at large to consider any and all options to fund the timely implementation this plan. The federal government's Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, for example, clearly has the benefits of cycling on its radar and could be a source of much-needed funding.

Burlington is a great place to live and this cycling plan has the potential to make it even better. At this point in time, I believe that Burlington -- like many Canadian cities -- has a golden opportunity to proactively promote the many benefits of active transportation in conjunction with public transit. While the pandemic has upended people's lives in so many ways, it has also provided us with more time to spend in and around our home communities, getting active outside and enjoying the physical and mental health benefits that go with it.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the exceptional dedication and copious resources that have clearly gone into the development of this plan. Many thanks to those volunteers, staff members and consultants who have

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worked so hard to collect the research, analyze the opportunities and put together solid recommendations for improving cycling infrastructure in our city.