

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I would like to add my support for the bike lanes on William Roe and Clearmeadow Blvd.

I am a Newmarket cyclist, driver, and homeowner. Cycling is not just recreational activity for me, it is also how I get to work, go shopping, and see others (although from a distance, these days).

As a cyclist, the recreational trails are nice for a leisurely ride, but a connected network of dedicated bike lanes is what's needed to provide myself and a growing number of cyclists with safe transportation routes. Currently, with the exception of a few existing lanes, I have to choose to cycle inches from cars traveling three times my speed or risk getting doored by parked cars on the side of the street. With a network of dedicated bike lanes, I can feel safer and more confident riding to my destination.

As a driver, I admit getting stuck behind a cyclist can be annoying when I'm in a rush. Passing a cyclist can be quite unnerving at times too. Again, with a network of dedicated bike lanes, we each have our own space to get to where we need.

Finally, as a homeowner, I want to live in a safe neighborhood and have my property appreciate over time. Studies have shown that close proximity to cycling infrastructure positively affects property value, so expanding the network benefits our community as a whole too.

This is why the proposed bike lanes on William Roe and Clearmeadow Blvd should be constructed as planned. It will not only those in the immediate vicinity, but will contribute to the larger network of cycling lanes that will make Newmarket a safer and better place for everyone to live in and get around.

Thank You,
Laetitia Tam
269 Rogers Road, Newmarket