

Dear Mayor Taylor and Members of Council

As an avid cyclist, I wish to add my voice to the proposal to create cycling lanes on Clearmeadow Boulevard in Newmarket.

While I acknowledge the concerns of residents who are opposed to the change of roadway use in their neighbourhood, clearly, we must also acknowledge the benefits that this change will bring, both to Newmarket, and to its residents.

As Newmarket continues to expand its "green" initiatives, which include cycling as an established means of transportation, the town has worked to create cycling lanes in areas that directly, and safely connect cyclists between main thoroughfares - in this case, it is considering the provision of a link between Bathurst Street and Yonge Street.

I understand that change does not come easily, particularly in a culture that promotes and encourages the use of vehicles, even for the closest of destinations. As someone who was born and raised in Holland, I can tell you that cycling, and public transit, are a major means of transportation, (as an example the train station in Utrecht Holland has indoor parking space for more than 12,000 bicycles) and cars are often left in driveways, unused for days at a time. Think of the benefits - recreation, health, longer vehicle life, and less reliance on gas, (both a financial, and a "green" benefit). But understand, that this has been achieved because Holland has created one of the world's best cycling infrastructures.

Here in Newmarket, we have been urging the town to help us to make cycling mainstream. In order to do this, cycling must be made safe, accessible, and there must be bike lanes on connecting roadways, that make "cycling sense". Clearmeadow is such a roadway.

Toda, COVID, is having a major impact on both our lives, and our lifestyles. We are largely confined to home, many work from home, and few have access to public recreation. Activities such as walking, and cycling have taken on a new importance. I have seen more walkers, and more cyclists than I ever can recall.

Let's, then take this opportunity to expand the number of cycling lanes in town, and add to those lanes, the proposed one along Clearmeadow. This will help to make cycling, with its many benefits, a commonplace, and most importantly, a safe, and sensible way to travel in this town.

Sincerely

Peter Kuin