

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am in favour of the continued implementation of the Active Transportation Plan, including the scheduled installation of painted bicycle lanes on William Roe and Clearmeadow Blvds.

There are several evidence-based reasons why a network of safe, separated bicycle routes is needed:

- Every year in Canada, an average of 7500 cyclists are injured and 74 die (StatsCan/Canadian Automobile Association). The majority of collisions are caused by motorists, with the most common causes being unsafe turns, passing too closely, and opening a car door in a cyclist's path (Injury Lawyers of Ontario, CAA). How do we reduce these preventable injuries and deaths? Studies show that they decline when drivers expect to see cyclists on the road, and when there are more of them. Therefore, we need separate cycling lanes.
- We are all taxpayers—motorists, cyclists, walkers, seniors, people with disabilities—and our taxes pay for transportation infrastructure, including the streets we are talking about today. Those streets must provide for everyone's needs, not just motorists. Reserving space for street parking of private vehicles is the least valuable way to use that public resource and does not create any significant economic activity. According to a US study (<https://www.vox.com/2014/6/27/5849280/why-free-parking-is-bad-for-everyone>), each on-street parking space costs \$US 1,750 to build and \$400 to maintain annually.
- We know that cycling as a mode of transportation is healthy, environmentally friendly, and contributes to equity and social cohesion. A large proportion of trips made by car are to destinations that are less than 5km away, but the reason most people give for not cycling is that there is no safe route to get there. We therefore need a safe, connected network of cycle lanes, and they need to follow our streets so that they get people to their destinations.
- What destinations do I mean? I am a cyclist, and I live in the area of town that where the bike lanes we are talking about today are going to be installed. I cycle to accomplish my daily business: shopping, the farmers market, takeout food, medical appointments, the library, community events, and more. In fact, studies show that cyclists spend more money in local businesses than those who drive to their destinations.

Cycle lanes make our community safer, healthier, fairer, and more prosperous, and we need to keep building them as we planned.

Todd Kyle