



February 1, 2019

Mayor Gary McNamara, Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti, and Councillors Andrew Dowie, Bill Altenhof, Rick Tonial, Brian Houston and Tania Jobin

RE: Bike Lanes on Lesperance Road

Dear Sirs and Madam,

On behalf of Bike Windsor Essex, the region's safe cycling education and advocacy organization representing thousands of local cyclists, congratulations on the excellent work you've been doing to support cycling and safer streets in the Town of Tecumseh. We've had the pleasure of helping support your highly popular Tecumseh Windsor Slow Ride and several of our members from both Windsor and Tecumseh, enjoy cycling weekly with the group.

Like you, progressive municipalities across the province are working hard to encourage residents to choose active transportation - walking and cycling - for short trips under 5km as part of a healthier, more active and environmentally responsible lifestyle. Our surveys of thousands of people across Essex County show that the lack of dedicated and connected cycling infrastructure is the main barrier to seeing a measurable shift in the population to active transportation. This is why projects like Lesperance Road are so important.

Your plan to narrow Lesperance Road to vehicular traffic and to add bike lanes on both sides of the road will be a tremendous step forward for the 60% of Windsor-Essex residents who say they would like to ride their bikes more but are too afraid. As evidenced by similar projects across the province, narrowing the traffic lanes and adding bike lanes on either side of the road is a proven strategy for slowing vehicular traffic and increasing the safety of those cycling and walking.

Sometimes people in our highly car-centric culture forget that not everyone is able to drive a car, whether due to age, a disability, or economic hardship — and some people simply wish to lead a healthier, greener, friendlier lifestyle. Many of us walk, ride a

bicycle and drive a car — depending upon where and what we're doing. Municipalities that care about healthy, green communities and providing options for all residents to transport themselves where they need to go, look at creating streets that prioritize pedestrians, then bicycle riders and then personal cars.

We applaud and support your plan, and will look forward to riding our bikes on Lesperance Road to access businesses on Tecumseh Road from the trails to the south.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Lori

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lori Newton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lori Newton, Executive Director
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