

Support Safe Cycling On Holland Avenue

To: Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa - jim.watson@ottawa.ca

Cc: Jeff Leiper, Councillor, Kitchissippi Ward - jeff.leiper@ottawa.ca

Dear Mayor Watson,

On behalf of Bike Ottawa, the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association, and Hintonburg Community Association, thank you for your response. We are pleased to see that a dialogue has started on the important issue of how we accommodate all road users safely during construction projects such as the Harmer Bridge Replacement.

First, we are glad to see the city is proposing a 30km/h speed limit on Holland and would encourage that it be put in place for the whole length of the street. We know that when speeds are lowered, streets become safer and when collisions do happen, pedestrians and cyclists have a much greater chance of surviving than at 40km/h or 50km/h.

However, we are disappointed that the city is not pursuing more aggressive timelines for construction of bidirectional lanes. A segregated lane can be implemented quickly, using flexible bollards and pre-cast curbs, as on Laurier Avenue. Waiting until the 2019 construction season means that no detour will be in place for at least half of the project duration, which constitutes an unacceptable delay. Expecting children to continue to cycle on a narrow sidewalk where there are also bus stops, and adult cyclists to rely on sharrows - which we know do not improve safety and may even reduce it - merely reinforces a status quo where conflict between street users is baked in and safety is considered a lower priority than street parking. Given that Holland Avenue is identified as a spine cycling route and serves important community institutions such as Fisher Park Public School and Summit Alternative, we as a city should be able to marshal the same resources to make it safe for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages, just as we have acted quickly to put in place costly detours for LRT and road projects. This would also be in keeping with the measures that will be put in place during the replacement of the 417 bridge over the O-Train, where cyclists will be detoured in segregated lanes via Preston Street for the duration of the project.

With this in mind, we ask that you and Councillor Leiper reconsider the timelines for an appropriate cycling detour and put it in place this summer. Many community residents and organizations, including the ones listed above took the time and made the effort to provide feedback on a comprehensive detour proposal for this project, and were left with the expectation that the City of Ottawa will implement an appropriate detour, rather than a series of adjustments that leave the status quo intact.

Regards,

Érinn Cunningham

Bike Ottawa

Luanne Calcutt

Transportation Committee Chair, Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association

Larry Hudon

Hintonburg Community Association