



Friday, 14 June 2013

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Your Worship, Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, and dear Ottawa City councillors,

The Centretown Citizens Community Association (CCCA) is very pleased that the City of Ottawa is examining the “complete streets” approach as part of the “Building a Liveable Ottawa” exercise.

This approach, which calls on decision makers and planners to take into account the needs of all road users (among them drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users) of all ages and abilities when building and maintaining the roadway, is very close to how the CCCA has always envisioned how our streets should be planned. In fact, the CCCA’s Transportation Committee has as its official objectives that:

- travel in Centretown is safe, convenient and enjoyable;
- walking, cycling, and the use of public transit are the preferred modes of travel in Centretown;
- connections with nearby neighbourhoods are accessible and safe; and
- traffic from other parts of the City respects the primarily residential character of the community

In keeping with these objectives, the CCCA believes that the City should adopt a strong complete streets policy for all planning initiatives, including reviews of the Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Pedestrian Plan and Cycling Plan. Such a policy should apply to all projects, including those for reconstruction and repair, taking into account the local context of the roadway and the surrounding community.

Centretown presents particular challenges because it is both a destination for external traffic as well as a residential neighbourhood with a high volume of internal movement by car, bicycle, transit and foot. Streets are narrow, busy and home to a diverse mixture of businesses, institutions and residences.

Adopting the complete streets approach would greatly improve our community, where so many different transportation modes share the same space, by making our streets safer and more pleasant for all users. Indeed, wider sidewalks, safer intersections, more convenient cycling infrastructure, more reliable public transportation and better planned streets for automobiles benefit us all.

The adoption of the complete streets approach into the many municipal plans under review is a great opportunity for Ottawa City Council to show leadership in planning matters, something befitting a national capital. The CCCA urges you to take this step.

Yours sincerely,

Jordan Charbonneau, CCCA president

Cc: CCCA Board of Directors and Diane Holmes, Somerset Ward councillor