

TO: Mayor Watson,

As you know, on Friday, July 6, 2013 the city Transportation Committee passed a city staff report recommending Option 5 for a “complete” Main Street. What we found surprising and disconcerting is that the vote was actually quite close. We are writing you to urge you to support this project when it comes to a vote a City Council on July 17th.

As an active organization in the Old Ottawa East neighborhood, us at the Bike Co-op (located at 200 Less, the University of Ottawa Lees Campus) are deeply affected by any changes (or conversely, inertia) that happen to Main Street. Not only is Main Street one of the primary ways for folks to get to us, but we are constantly sending cyclists or ourselves over to Main Street to spend money at the business there. Whenever we don’t have specific bike parts, we cycle up to Hawthorn to buy it at one of the two bike stores just off Main Street. Whenever we hold events at the Bike Co-op, we go pick up snacks from the Green Door restaurant on Main. Moreover, people are constantly telling us that they fear for their safety considering that both of the two roads that lead to our service (the other being the bridge over the 417 Highway) include speeding cars, bumpy pavement, and absolutely no cycling designation or space. The employees at the Bike Co-op are personally aware of this – all of us live in other city wards, so we are all actually commuters *to* Old Ottawa East. For us, Main Street is an active, vibrant community where we work and do business – but were we feel like our safety and infrastructure needs are sidelined.

That said, we also recognize that car commuters do have needs – and we believe that the complete Main Street respects those needs in a balance with all forms of transportation. When the Bike Co-op was providing free bike tune-ups at the Main Street Farmer’s Market the day after the Transportation Committee vote, we heard nothing but support for Option 5. Some of the people at the farmers’ market had driven there, some had biked, and some had used their wheelchairs to get there, while others had walked or taken the bus. Everyone – regardless of their mode of transportation –agreed that our street needs to be designed with us all in mind, so that everyone is able to be safe and contribute to healthy businesses, communities and modes of transportation.

Respectfully,

Bike Co-op / Co-op Vélo

Fédération étudiante de l'Université d'Ottawa (FÉUO) - FCÉEÉ, Section 41

Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) - CFS, Section 41

613-562-5800 x7092