

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:44:01 PM

To: Berry Vrbanovic <berry.vrbanovic@kitchener.ca>; Scott Davey <Scott.Davey@kitchener.ca>; Aislinn Clancy <Aislinn.Clancy@kitchener.ca>

Cc: Cynthia Sundberg

Subject: Lancaster ramps to Highway 85 - Proposed Removal

Hello Honourable Members of City Council,

Hi Aislinn – I'm a business owner in Downtown Kitchener, and reside in Scott Davey's ward, hence including you both on the distribution.

I heard the news about the recent decision by Regional Council – who have voted in favour of closing the Lancaster Street Ramps on and off of Highway 85. As someone who travels down Lancaster to DTK daily, this will certainly have an impact on traffic flow on Lancaster and at Bridgeport and Lancaster, and Bridgeport at the highway exits and entrances. I've witnessed a number of accidents at Bridgeport and the Left Turn to get off the highway ramp, and this likely will increase with additional traffic heading into the Lancaster area. I believe the area around Bridge, Lancaster, Wellington, Margaret and down Bridgeport and Erb are all emerging areas. Having these ramps off Lancaster will become more important as traffic flows and changes. The intersection at Bridgeport and Lancaster is already incredibly busy and will only get more busy as neighbourhoods become more dense. King street has become a street to avoid by car, and Weber, Margaret and Lancaster have all increased in traffic volumes since the LRT construction began. I see very few pedestrians or cyclists on that stretch of Lancaster, so I'm struggling to understand the logic of removing those ramps. Once they are gone, they will cost millions to replace. I think it's a really short-sighted move.

From the article I read, Kitchener city council did not have an opportunity to discuss prior to Regional Council forwarding this item. This is bad politics in my opinion. As Kitchener residents, we should be consulted on these kinds of changes. The ramps were installed to manage traffic and growth. It's also an alternate route in the event of a major accident on highway 85 in the express or exit lanes heading south, or an accident between Bridgeport and University heading north. I posted a notice on my neighbourhood's Facebook page, and am hoping some residents have emailed you directly. My growing neighbourhood of River Ridge/ Kiwanis Park has been impacted by poor planning in the Bridge Street reconstruction, and construction over the last 20 years on Bridge, Woolwich and the Bridgeport area has been challenging, and this is just another example of our needs being ignored because of a lack of understanding of Kitchener/ Bridgeport community realities.

Thanks Berry for being vocal about this one. It's worth the extra scrutiny!

Is there anything I can do to raise our concerns? Please let me know,

Cynthia Sundberg | VP Operations and Administration|virtual causeway