

Subject: Urgent Request to Reconsider the Proposed Bike Lanes on Lancaster St. W. Kitchener

Dear Members of the Waterloo Regional Council,

August 1st, 2023

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing once again, in my capacity as a property owner and as the President of a crucial non-profit organization, to express ongoing concerns about the proposed changes to Lancaster St. W. in Kitchener.

Firstly, I commend the council's recent decisions to retain the highway off-ramp and maintain the bus routes on our street. These decisions clearly demonstrate an understanding of our community's needs and the importance of accessible transportation options for residents and local businesses alike.

However, I am compelled to voice significant apprehension regarding the continued proposal to add bike lanes by removing part of the property frontage of 215 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. This plan continues to encounter opposition from many residents, businesses, and property owners on the street, who fear the implications of reduced parking spaces and increased traffic congestion.

The removal of parking facilities, in particular, poses a considerable threat to the community. The current parking arrangement caters to the property owners, businesses, and the heavy flow of vehicular traffic that we experience daily. Adding bike lanes at the expense of these parking spaces may lead to unwelcome traffic jams, while potentially leaving the new bike lanes underutilized.

Moreover, my property at 215 Lancaster St. W. operates under R6 zoning regulations, and any loss of frontage due to road widening would impose substantial difficulties for us. I firmly request that the council take these potential impacts into account when voting on the proposal.

With respect to the essential services of our community, I would like to highlight the urgent need for replacing the existing water and sewage lines. Prioritizing this much-needed infrastructure upgrade would be a prudent use of resources that directly benefits residents.

Therefore, I urge the Regional Council to reconsider the current plan and vote to maintain the existing parking arrangements on Lancaster St. W. Our collective objective should be to ensure that any changes accommodate the diverse needs of all residents, businesses, and service providers.

Thank you for your understanding and continued attention to this matter. I trust that you will consider these concerns earnestly. I remain at your disposal for further discussions.

Sincerely,

Jane Richard Property Owner, 215 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener President, KW Right to Life

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