

From: Lauren Burkhardt
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Sacha Smith <Sacha.Smith@mississauga.ca>
Subject: Accelerated Bike Infrastructure Plan

Hello,

I wanted to send in a comment regarding the approach being taken towards the planning and implementation of the accelerated bike infrastructure. I should note that as an active and public transit user I am generally in support of most non-car centered infrastructure.

I wanted to express my feelings regarding an equity approach being taken by the city in its building of bike infrastructure. There is already significant awareness surrounding the city's complicity and active role in environmental racism - the Malton Community Garden for example. Transit infrastructure must serve the most vulnerable members of the community first. There is no room or time to be wasted as these populations will always be first to viscerally experience the mistakes made by the city.

I am extremely lucky to be a white person living in the west of Mississauga, but I cannot deny the ways I see city spending effect some communities and not the ones who most need renewed paving or safer intersections. In this current climate, where many Black and Brown people have been mistreated and murdered at the hands of authority, the city must act to make the changes that communities have been asking for - included the defunding of police. In addition to this they must take an anti-racist and equitable approach to building infrastructure. This includes bike lanes.

I am sure that we all have an awareness on how racism and classism manifests in systemic ways and becomes material in our environment. I want to show my support for the building of more bike lanes, as well as the need for community input from the most vulnerable users. Black and Brown people deserve to feel comfortable and safe riding a bike, taking public transit or driving a car.

Thank you,

Lauren Burkhardt