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Advocating for Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

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Town of Ajax  
65 Harwood Ave. S.  
Ajax, Ont.  
L1S 2H9

Via E-Mail

Attention: Mayor Collier and Members of Council

February 08, 2024

**Re: Removal of Bike Lanes on Harwood Ave South**

Dear Mayor Collier and Councillors,

Regrettably, we are once again reaching out regarding the bewildering decision to remove safe cycling bike lanes on lower Harwood at a budgeted cost of better than 800K in year 2024.

Given the current first-class buffered bike lanes in place, which is an infrastructure worthy of a Town boasting a silver rated cycling community status, the most recent news is discouraging to say the least.

For consideration we note the following:

- Staff Report # PDS-2021-40 dated October 12, 2021 recommended that the existing facilities remain in place.
  2. **That the existing on-road active transportation facilities and single vehicle travel lane in each direction remain in place on Harwood Avenue between Westney Road and Lake Driveway.**
- October 21, 2021 DRCC submitted a letter in support of maintaining the bike lanes.
  - Two of our supporting cycle clubs also submitted letters of support.

We have also heard from local residents and school support staff who are in favour of maintaining the current bike lanes across this corridor.



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Further to this, we have taken time to review vehicle traffic across lower Harwood at various times of day and have never observed a back log of vehicle traffic due to a single lane configuration which leads to the question:

Has a warrants analysis been completed to justify this change in direction?

Noting the staff report recommendation as well as feedback we have received from multiple stakeholders, we are of the opinion that the removal of these lanes to be replaced with a single 3.0 m wide multi use path is a step in the wrong direction.

Given the budget challenges faced by municipalities, perhaps the money saved could be appropriated towards expanding the waterfront trail twinning project which 82% of users recommended in a recent Town of Ajax survey. (reference attachment # 1)

On behalf of the cycling community at large, for whom cycling infrastructure is built, we would strongly suggest that the bike lanes on lower Harwood Ave. remain in place.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Lalonde".

Ron Lalonde  
Executive Director, Durham Region Cycling Coalition

c.c. Dr. Subha Ramanathan, Manager of Programs and Partnerships, Share the Road Coalition  
Shane Baker, Chief Administration Officer, Town of Ajax



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**Attachment # 1**

**Town of Ajax**

# Trail Etiquette (Cont.)

What would make sharing this path more enjoyable?

