



Website: durhamsafecycling.ca
Email: durhamrcc@gmail.com
Mail: 1B-701 Rossland Road East
Suite # 629
Whitby ON, L1N 9K3

Advocating for Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Town of Ajax
65 Harwood Ave S
Ajax, ON
L1S 2H9

Via E-Mail: contactus@ajax.ca

Attention: Mayor and Councillors

March 28, 2021

RE: Waterfront Trail Closure

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The Durham Region Cycling Coalition (DRCC) is a regional advocacy group in support of all levels of cycling. It has recently been brought to our attention that the bridge over Duffins Creek, which is an integral part of the Waterfront Trail (WFT), has been closed for several weeks due to construction of a new boardwalk.



Fig 1. West Side Duffins Creek Bridge



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Within Ontario the WFT is a **significant tourist route** for cyclists that stretches from the Quebec border to Windsor, including the entire Ajax waterfront. It would therefore seem reasonable for visitors (some from out of province) riding the WTF to expect that a trail closure would be well sign posted, including a detour route - just as one would expect for a road closure. This courtesy seems to have been overlooked by Ajax.

A simple and inexpensive solution to avoid unnecessary annoyance would be a sign on the WTF at Frisco Rd. and at Rotary Park that said "TRAIL AHEAD CLOSED, See Map for Detour Route." A simple map on the sign board is all that would be required and would provide cyclists with the option of continuing their ride east or west of Ajax.

This is not the first instance of Ajax forgetting cycling and pedestrian traffic. Last year the multi-use path on Bayly St. between Shoal Point Rd. and Audley Rd. was closed for several months and earlier this year a "Trail Closed" notice suddenly appeared on the Trans Canada Trail at Church St. just north of Hwy 401. In both cases no alternate routes were posted.



Fig 2. Bayly St at Shoal Point Rd, July 2020

Notice reads: SIDEWALK CLOSED

By way of example for temporary trail closure notices please see Figures 3,4 and 5.



Fig 3. Closure Notice, Oshawa Creek Trail, Oshawa



Fig 4



Fig 5

Trail Diversion Signs in Germany. Understandable in any language.



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Ajax is a Silver Rated, Bicycle Friendly Community and random trail closures do nothing to enhance the Town's image with visitors. We would respectfully suggest more consideration be given to the ever-increasing number of visiting cyclists when contemplating temporary closures to cycling and pedestrian facilities. Perhaps it is not too late to add appropriate signage at Duffins Creek especially as the improving weather will bring many more cyclists to the Waterfront Trail.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Lee", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Derek Lee, Director

Durham Region Cycling Coalition

derek@safecycling.ca

C.C. Armi De Fracia, Active Transportation Coordinator, Town of Ajax

Nadia Sukovski, Sr. Economic Development Officer, Town of Ajax

Marlaine Koehler, Executive Director, Waterfront Regeneration Trust