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Hamilton

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Re: Community mailboxes and impacts to cycling infrastructure

After discussion and due consideration, the Hamilton Cycling Committee recommends the following policy: Community mailboxes should not be placed on streets with existing adjacent bike lanes or on streets which are designated for bike lanes according to the City of Hamilton's Cycling Master Plan (2009).

We support this policy for the following reasons: The placement of mailboxes adjacent to bike lanes would create an impediment to the free flow of cycling traffic especially if a vehicle or vehicles were temporarily parked in a bike lane, near the community mailbox, while residents picked up their mail. Vehicles obstructing a bike lane would also have the effect of forcing cyclists out of their defined cycling lane and into vehicular traffic. Also residents who park their vehicles near a community mailbox while retrieving their mail often choose to sort through it on site in order to discard unwanted mail and ad mail in the containers provided. This in turn will not only lead to delays, but also to the possibility that the discarded mail will end up as litter on the street around the mailbox, and possibly on the bike lane itself. This clutter may pose another very real risk to cyclists, and an even greater danger especially if roads were already wet and slippery.

As a convenient reference, the following links provide mapping that show both current bike lanes:

www.hamilton.ca/BikeRides

and planned bike lanes:

www.hamilton.ca/ShiftingGears

The Hamilton Cycling Committee, therefore, respectfully and sincerely urges Canada Post to consider site locations of community mailboxes away from streets which have or are planned to have designated bike lanes, and to place the mailboxes on local residential streets which would be readily and safely accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Regards,

Bob Corsini
On behalf of the Hamilton Cycling Committee
City of Hamilton