

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council:

Re: Implications of Lower City Traffic Changes that have Put Additional Pressures on Mountain Road Networks Motion

The Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association (KNA) is writing to express its concerns about the subject Motion from Councillor Whitehead. Before you approve this motion there are some consideration points we would like to bring to your attention. We will be brief so that we can be respectful of your time but please note each point can be expanded or elaborated on in the event of questions.

- **Available resources:** The area identified in the motion (Scenic Drive, Garth, West 5<sup>th</sup>, Fennell, Beckett Drive and the West 5<sup>th</sup> Hill) is a large geographical area and as such has significant impact on staff workloads. Our understanding is that City staff are already studying the traffic implications of the LRT and its construction on a city wide scale. As taxpayers, we want to ensure this is a feasible request for staff to undertake and that the costs and use of resources are justified.
- **User implications:** The motion proposes changing the way both the West 5<sup>th</sup> Hill and Beckett Drive operate. This would have a significant impact on not only resident users, but also two major Hamilton institutions - St. Joseph's Hamilton Healthcare and Mohawk College. Do they support this request?
- **Health and safety concerns:** This motion is clearly sarcastic in its tone about lower City residents' concerns about their health and safety. Is this the message city council wishes to send to both Hamiltonians and the Province?
- **Aberdeen request reference is incorrect:** The KNA has not asked for Aberdeen to be reduced to 2 lanes. In December, we asked the General Issues Committee once the Transportation Master Plan is complete to direct city engineers to do a full review of Aberdeen with a focus on making it a more complete street (a street respectful of all users including cars, cyclists and pedestrians). We have also asked for immediate action on identified safety concerns in key areas.
- **Complete streets:** There is no evidence to suggest that traffic calming measures necessarily create road congestion. Complete Streets and other rebalancing transportation measures are supported by the Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) and the American National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). These organizations are comprised of thousands of Engineers and other professionals who are, by law, required to make recommendations on solutions that are safe, technically sound and evidence-based.

In conclusion, we would like this motion revised to satisfy the following points:

1. All divisive and sarcastic language is removed and the reference to our Aberdeen request be corrected;
2. Any proposed solutions take on a balanced approach; and,
3. The study is feasible for staff to undertake and incorporates work already being done by the Transportation Master Plan and LRT reviews.

We hope you will take the above into consideration as you debate this motion.

For a further examination of this motion, Ryan McGreal has published a review of this motion on Raise the Hammer. The article can be found at: [An Annotated Tour of Councillor Whitehead's Latest Traffic Motion](#)

Thanking you in advance, warm regards,  
Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association