

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence to be read during July 17, 2020, Council Meeting

From: Rebecca Mills

Sent: July 14, 2020 11:03 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Davenport, Alicia <Alicia.Davenport@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Correspondence to be read during July 17, 2020, Council Meeting

Re: City of Hamilton Staff Report #PW20010/PED20077

Dear Honourable City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to revisit the resolution entitled, "Making Upper James Street More Pedestrian Friendly" which you ratified on June 24, 2020. By adding some planter boxes and shifting two sets of lights one block south (Churchill/Duff to Queensdale and Brantdale to Bruceale), Upper James is supposed to become more pedestrian friendly. However, the plan won't actually achieve its goal, it does not reflect community needs, and it will be a waste of money.

First, this project won't achieve its goal because it does not address speeding, the biggest problem for pedestrians on Upper James. As a resident of the area, I would welcome authentic measures to make things safer for pedestrians by slowing down the traffic. Transformative change could include a road diet (two lanes with a turning lane), on-street parking, bikes lanes, wider sidewalks, etc.

Second, this project does not reflect the needs of the community. Some of my neighbours and I attended the meeting at Queensdale Elementary last year and gave feedback in good faith in person and remotely. I realize now that the report done by Public Works was most likely *fait accompli*, but the team of city planners was also tasked with an unachievable goal. The root of the problem lies in the past when Council ratified a motion brought forward by then Cllr. Skelly which proposed that a better environment be created for pedestrians "without diminishing the traffic along the vital route." The sentiment is in the right place, but the needs of pedestrians and cars are in competition with each other.

Third, this plan is a waste of money. Why spend over half a million dollars on a project that is unlikely to improve pedestrian safety, especially at a time when the City is struggling financially? In addition, no provision was made in the resolution for the unintended consequences that will result in traffic being redirected in between West 5th and Upper James. Right now there is a direct line between the two major arteries via Brantdale, but this project would alter that situation forcing cars onto residential streets ill equipped to handle the influx.

Thus, the current project will *not* make things better for pedestrians, it does not support their needs in the community, and it squanders taxpayer dollars. The plan as it stands benefits *cars* more than pedestrians. Please consider revisiting the resolution (as well as Cllr Skelly's legacy) to make credible changes or save the money for something else. In closing, I would appreciate Council answering this question on the record: What will Council do to make things better for pedestrians on Upper James...for real?

Sincerely,
Rebecca Mills