

Added Item 5.3

Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 8:23 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Public Works Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Ned Nolan

Name of Organization:

Contact Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request: I wish to speak at the September 11, 2020 PWC meeting or at a later PWC committee meeting as appropriate, in response to the petition being presented by Alex Beer and the Keep Aberdeen Moving group.

Five years ago, at the very front-end of your Aberdeen traffic calming file, I stood before Council on behalf of the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association and asked that the City make Aberdeen Avenue safer.

Today, I'm merely asking that you stay the course.

The proposed changes to parking on Aberdeen are a wonderful baby step in the right direction - a buffer of parked cars to improve the pedestrian experience and modestly slow down traffic. (The modeled estimate predicts only about a 60

second slower total travel time for drivers from one end of the street to the other).

This proposal has been carefully studied and recommended by your expert staff and traffic engineers. The modeling clearly shows that Aberdeen can handle the change. As you know, many arterial and minor arterial roads throughout Hamilton carry a greater volume of traffic than Aberdeen using only 2 lanes. Kenilworth is a great example of the same type of traffic calming conversion – and a complete success.

I am a parent of young children and we live on a side street off Aberdeen. We cross Aberdeen on foot every day to get to and from school. It is a very scary place to be, especially with young children!

The issue whether the proposed changes to Aberdeen will generate dangerous cut-through traffic on side streets has been considered by your expert staff and they have concluded that this is unlikely to be a problem. In any event, this issue will be monitored by the City and, if a problem is identified, appropriate measures can be taken to curtail such unwanted driver behaviour.

Of course, the two-way conversion of Queen (allowing drivers to descend all the way to King St.) will also discourage any temptation to cut through Kirkendall side streets to get to the highway.

A number of vocal opponents of the plan from both within and outside our neighbourhood, have cited the same fears that are dragged out every time the City looks at calming runaway traffic. We know from experience that these fears never prove to be substantiated. In this case, the “Keep Aberdeen Moving”

group has gathered signatures by stoking unfounded fears with misleading and often downright false statements.

Please recognize that our community still demands (and deserves) a safer, calmer Aberdeen for everyone – children, residents, pedestrians, cyclists – and yes drivers, both local and non-local.

The Neighbourhood Association continues to advocate for this, as do my neighbours.

This is a modest, careful, studied pilot project which was born out of a robust democratic process in Ward 1. I urge you to continue to support it as you have already wisely done.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

September 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Aberdeen Avenue Traffic Calming Measures

Five years ago, at the very front-end of your Aberdeen traffic calming file, I stood before Council on behalf of the *Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association* and asked that the City make Aberdeen Avenue safer.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ned Nolan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ned Nolan and family, Ward 1