

Added Item 5.4

Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Thursday, September 10, 2020 - 9:28 am

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Public Works Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Leah Fuller

Name of Organization:

Contact Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request: I would like to submit my delegation request at the Sept 11 2020 Public Works Committee, or at a later PWC, in response to Alex Beer & the Keep Aberdeen Moving Group. I am requesting that council stay committed to vision zero and continue to work to implement the pilot project to slow down Aberdeen Ave.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Dear Honourable Mayor and Members of Council,

My name is Leah Fuller, and I have lived in Kirkendall for over well over a decade and spent my childhood growing up in Durand. I was the President of the Kirkendall Neighborhood Association, I am a small business owner, and currently a student at McMaster University.

It is no secret to anyone who currently, and consistently uses Aberdeen that it is a road which is in dire need of traffic calming and additional safety measures. People say that slowing down the cars will put pedestrians at risk. Read that again. Slowing down cars, will put pedestrians at risk. That simply is not true. Slowing down cars, makes its safer for everyone, including fellow drivers.

It's great that so many people are passionate about transportation in the City of Hamilton, but emphasis needs to be placed on the varying modes of transportation, without hieratically ranking them. Each bus, car, pedestrian, bicycle, transport truck, e bikes and motorized scooter is vital to our city and the people who live, work, and play in it. This street needs to be looked at as checking the most transportation boxes, safely. Can people safely drive down it? Can people walk without lunging to the grass in the midst of a speeding car coming up the shoulder? Is it a safe street to cycle on, ride an e-bike, or motorized scooter? If you need to think about these, you may want to take a walk, or cycle down Aberdeen yourself – don't take anyone else's word for it.

I remember a few years ago hearing someone call it "this little mini highway in the city" – with an attempted positive ring. I can't speak for you, Members of Council, but as someone living near this "little mini highway" I would much rather jog, walk my dog, or cycle on a safe street, not one that is, "a little mini highway". We have two of those already, the Red Hill & the Linc and despite rarely using them I support them.

Some members of council may not fully understand the weight that this decision carries for the people living in close proximity to Aberdeen. I would like to direct your attention to the following;

Lawrence Road in the east end

Governor's Road in Dundas

Mohawk/Rousseau Street in Ancaster

Wilson Street in Ancaster

These streets are also considered arterial roads (some major and minor) and have been adapted for traffic calming measures. As people who live in Kirkendall we are simply requesting that you respect our streets, and our neighbourhoods the way you do yours. As you represent the people, being a public servant this isn't a big ask.

You are very fortunate to have many reports from traffic engineers and professionals. Look at them, read them, understand them. Do not base your decisions on an inflammatory group's boredom project. There will always be people who push back against change, and as

representatives you should be thinking of what your legacy for this city will be; positive with progress, or fearful & avoidant. I remember Councillor Vanderbeek once said "I don't like to err, but when I do, I like to err on the side of progress". I urge you all to do your homework and support slowing down Aberdeen. You have a choice Members of Council, to make a positive difference in the city, please don't let us down.

Sincerely,
Leah Fuller