

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Aberdeen: 4 to 2 lanes

From: Harris, Richard

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To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Subject: Aberdeen: 4 to 2 lanes

Good morning,

I'm writing with regard to the City's plans to reduce the number of car lanes on Aberdeen (Queen to Dundurn) from four to two. I believe I understand the thinking behind this move, including pedestrian and cyclist safety. However, as a resident of the area, I want to express my substantial concern and firm opposition.

I will explain why, but first let me point out that I am a lifelong cyclist. Over a period of 47 years, I have cycled to an office most days of my working life, in six different cities in Britain, the United States, and Canada. I welcome the City's move to better accommodate cyclists, and applaud the manner in which the City does a good job in winter in keeping the rail trail open between Studholme Avenue and Ainslie-Wood neighbourhood. I am the last person to deplore attempts to rein in the car!

So why am I opposed to the proposed change on Aberdeen? Overwhelmingly, because it will inevitably redirect traffic onto side streets, thereby creating many more safety problems than it solves. Drivers, who currently use Aberdeen to get from the Queen Street mountain access to the highway, will become frustrated with backups on Aberdeen and will look for alternate routes. Their frustrations will encourage them to speed, and in general drive recklessly. This already happens occasionally, and will become much more common.

Of course, for an experimental period, you could set up rigorous police enforcement of current (and possibly future) speed and turn restrictions, as exists for example at Glenfern and Queen. But you and I know that such a diversion of man (and woman) power could not become permanent. Closing off one or more access points permanently would of course be possible, but would create great inconvenience to local residents, who already find it difficult getting onto Aberdeen during rush hours.

All in all, I believe that, although well-intentioned, the proposed change is a bad idea.

Richard Harris