

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** #leanaberdeen delegates used a democratic process in 2015 to ask for a pedestrian-friendly Aberdeen Avenue

**Attachments:** Lean%20Aberdeen%20Earl%20Kitchener%20School%20Council.docx

**From:** The Hodgson Family

**Sent:** September 13, 2020 5:40 PM

**To:** Eisenberger, Fred <[Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca](mailto:Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca)>; Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>; Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>; Farr, Jason <[Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca)>; Nann, Nrinder <[Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca)>; Merulla, Sam <[Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca](mailto:Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca)>; Collins, Chad <[Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca](mailto:Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca)>; Jackson, Tom <[Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca)>; Pauls, Esther <[Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca](mailto:Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca)>; Danko, John-Paul <[John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca](mailto:John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca)>; Clark, Brad <[Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca)>; Pearson, Maria <[Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca)>; Johnson, Brenda <[Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca)>; Ferguson, Lloyd <[Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca)>; VanderBeek, Arlene <[Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca](mailto:Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca)>; Whitehead, Terry <[Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca](mailto:Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** #leanaberdeen delegates used a democratic process in 2015 to ask for a pedestrian-friendly Aberdeen Avenue

Dear Members of Council and Mayor Eisenberger,

I am very concerned about a vote that will happen this week at the traffic meeting concerning a petition from people asking to stop the Aberdeen traffic calming plans.

**Please do not vote to overturn the decision to calm traffic on Aberdeen Ave.**

**I share #visionzero and I'm raising kids in this city who deserve the freedom to walk and ride their bikes without fear.**

I presented the attached speech on behalf of parents and students from Earl Kitchener and St Joe's elementary schools plus Ryerson Middle School in 2015 because our municipal government has a process and I wanted to participate in that to affect change. The issue has not changed, Aberdeen is a dangerous street, but the City was making progress with the plan for Aberdeen's road diet.

On Friday evening I heard the terrible news that part of council is challenging the plan that was set in place to protect children in my neighborhood. Now I feel like the council for the City of Hamilton doesn't respect effort (large group of concerned citizens who participated in the #leanaberdeen campaign) and time we take to participate in our community. Here is a link to the Spec article that covered the delegates back in 2015.

<https://www.thespec.com//news/hamilton-region/2015/12/02/hamilton-to-study-pedestrian-friendly-aberdeen-avenue.html>

Please do not vote against traffic calming in my neighbourhood. Please consider the sentiments from 2015 in the attached speech.

Sincerely,  
Christi Hodgson

My name is Christi Hodgson and I am the vice-chair of the Earl Kitchener School Council. In line with The City of Hamilton's Mission, and as the mother of three elementary-aged children, I agree that Hamilton is the best place to raise a child.

Earl Kitchener school council is in the process of re-engaging the School Travel Plan project - a project designed to encourage students and staff to use active transportation travelling to and from school. We felt the need to re-engage the STP project as traffic in the immediate area around the school has become increasingly dangerous. The traffic rushing down Dundurn and Aberdeen, ignoring crossing guards, or racing to catch lights to access or exit the highway has become a danger to students travelling to school. We believe many more students and families in the area would walk or cycle to their destinations if the roads were slower and safer. Aberdeen bears the burden of both incoming and outgoing traffic from Highway 403, and although it is a residential neighbourhood, there are no barriers to enforce the reduction of speed.

I discourage my children from using Aberdeen as a safe route because of this traffic, and I know that many other parents avoid this route as well.

The school travel plan encourages active transportation in accordance with Smart Commute Hamilton, an initiative that takes action on climate change and health in the GTHA through transportation efficiency, policy development and infrastructure renewal.

Part of Smart Commute Hamilton is Active & Sustainable School Transportation (ASST) - this emphasizes the importance of walking, cycling, and public transit. More students using ASST means less cars on the road, less pollution, improved safety, and increased physical activity.

On October 7th, 2015, a formal signing of the Active & Sustainable School Transportation Charter took place in front of City Hall by:

HWDSB

HWCDSD

and the City of Hamilton.

The Ontario Ministry of Education's Foundation for a Healthy School, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, and the City of Hamilton's Strategic Plan is reflected in this charter. To quote from the charter "I/We will work together to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school through our commitment to the following principles:" The first principle of

which is: “Street design for comfort, convenience, and safety for all users” (Note – ALL users, not just vehicles)

And under this principle, one of the actions is to “reduce speed limits and install traffic calming devices along school commuting routes.” For Earl Kitchener, there are presently 477 primary school students who live in walking distance of the school.

We understand that Aberdeen and Dundurn are two main access roads in our neighbourhood, and are to be shared by residents, students, and businesses, and that vehicular traffic is a part of all of our lives - we are asking that traffic calming devices be considered for our main roads to ensure safe commutes and travel for all. It is a heavily travelled, but residential neighbourhood, and Aberdeen is a school commute route.

Our school community is divided by Aberdeen Avenue, where children who spend the day in class together often don't play together outside of school hours because of the divide. Parents who would otherwise feel comfortable sending their children to the library or parks on their own, do not allow this independence solely because of the issues of safety along Aberdeen.

We want our children to have the ability to safely walk and cycle to school and around our neighbourhood for their physical health, social well being, interaction with their community and the health of our environment.

It is important to recognize that my children will be the first generation of commuters to have access to the newly built LRT system in Hamilton. Cars will no longer be a rite of passage for these kids, who are far more excited by a bicycle and a cell phone as markers of their independence. THIS is my future Hamilton.

On behalf of Earl Kitchener, I ask that you consider a complete street makeover for Aberdeen Avenue to ensure the continued safety of all students and residents alike, and to give them the freedom to choose safe, active transportation.