



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Public Works Committee
From:	Hamilton Cycling Advisory Committee _____ Chris Ritsma, Chair
Date:	August 9, 2022
Re:	Dewitt Road Reconstruction and Cycling Infrastructure

Recommendation

- a) Cycling lanes on Dewitt Road be physically protected, especially in front of the schools with precast or poured concrete curbs;
- b) Cycling lanes be continued through intersections rather than end and restart before and after the roadway intersections;
- c) Cycling lanes be continued past Hwy 8 to at least Midway Street;
- d) A pedestrian and cycling activated crosswalk be added to the Dewitt Road and Glenashton Crescent intersection nearest to St. Clare School;
- e) Cycling lanes be connected to existing Hwy 8 lanes, and intersection be improved to provide space to cyclists;
- f) Committee will draft a report to Public Works committee regarding recommendations on Dewitt Road as it relates to cycling and active transportation that connects to cycling.

Background

At its June 1, 2022 meeting, the Hamilton Cycling Committee reviewed and discussed the Dewitt Road Reconstruction project and passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the planned reconstruction of Dewitt Road will be in close proximity to four schools “St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Elementary School”, “Orchard Park Secondary School”, “Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School”, and “Mohawk College, Stoney Creek Campus”;

WHEREAS the current road width is approximately 10.00 metres and is not a truck

route or bus route;

WHEREAS the Dewitt Road bicycle lanes will connect with existing lanes on Hwy 8, as well as planned cycling infrastructure on Barton St and Fruitland Road;

WHEREAS the city is trying to encourage cycling instead of automobile travel;

WHEREAS drivers park in 'No Parking' zones on Dewitt Road during school drop off and pick up times,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE CYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS:**

- a) Cycling lanes on Dewitt Road be physically protected, especially in front of the schools with precast or poured concrete curbs;
- b) Cycling lanes be continued through intersections rather than end and restart before and after the roadway intersections;
- c) Cycling lanes be continued past Hwy 8 to at least Midway Street;
- d) A pedestrian and cycling activated crosswalk be added to the Dewitt Road and Glenashton Crescent intersection nearest to St. Clare School;
- e) Cycling lanes be connected to existing Hwy 8 lanes, and intersection be improved to provide space to cyclists;
- f) Committee will draft a report to Public Works committee regarding recommendations on Dewitt Road as it relates to cycling and active transportation that connects to cycling.

Analysis/Rationale

Dewitt Road is planned for reconstruction as part of the road maintenance program.

Dewitt Road is situated on the City of Hamilton's Cycling Masterplan as a bike lane, as it connects Ridge Road, Highway 8 and Barton Street which are all included on the Cycling Masterplan. The planned bike lane also connects multiple schools, residential areas and shopping areas as well as connecting to local transit service.

The City of Hamilton has adopted a goal to achieve Vision Zero which aims to reduce road fatalities to zero. The City of Hamilton has also declared a climate emergency indicating a need to shift toward more sustainable modes of transportation.

As a result of drop off and pick up at schools, many drivers stop on the side of the road, which would eliminate the benefit to offering children a safe method of cycling to school if they were used to hold vehicles during school times.