

July 6, 2022

5.7

Arlene Whatmough

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and members of Council

Re: Conversion of Main and King Street To Two Way

This is the worst thing you can do. We moved here in 1955 and it was an absolute nightmare to cross Main Street. I was eleven or twelve years old. We crossed to the middle and waited there with cars going behind and in front of us until the traffic cleared in order to cross the rest of the way. It was a very treacherous ordeal and was not an option to walk two blocks to lock street to the stop light and back just to cross the street.

If you make space for bike lanes, parked cars, and those stupid bump outs; that leaves one lane each way to drive, we will be in total gridlock just like Toronto. No driver will be able to make a left hand turn since they will have to cross the lane of traffic coming from the other direction. Drivers trying to make that left hand turn will be blocking the cars behind them from driving straight ahead. Also, drivers in the cross streets will not be able to go straight ahead since they will be fighting two lanes of traffic going in both directions.

Now, with one lane of traffic going each way how will the emergency vehicles get through? Drivers can not pull over a lane of parked cars or bike lanes to let them pass.

Every twenty minutes, seven busses go by (three different Delaware busses a King 1 and King 5, a Bee-Line and a Locke Street Bus); which will also now be lined up behind all the cars that are waiting to go. Delivery trucks are also in the line-up.

I have heard City Hall people say drivers will find other streets. There are no other streets a driver can go to that go East or West in order to drive across the City.

Bicycle riders do not follow the rules. They will ride across Main Street at a stop light and ride against the light thereby blocking cars that have the right of way. It happens all the time at Queen and Main.

While I am on the subject, what about whenever there is a concert at Hamilton Place or First Ontario Place? Are you aware, that whenever these happen, the left hand side of Main Street is a parking lot? Drivers are trying to make left hand turns to get into the underground parking areas and only two or three cars at a time get to turn.

Two way conversion of Main Street will not stop a pedestrian from crossing in the middle of the street. A case in point—almost every time I drive downtown a pedestrian crosses Main Street in the middle of the block, between Hess and Caroline Streets. There are stop lights at both Hess and Caroline Streets and there is nothing on the North side of Main, and the person has to walk one way or the other, so why don't they just walk to the light nearest to their destination?

Riding a bus to get to an appointment is not a good option; it takes a full hour or more to get up the mountain and the same length of time or more to get back home which leaves me no time to do anything else for whatever is left of the day.

Sincerely

