

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Prioritize human life over traffic flow NOW

**From:** Sean Theriault

**Sent:** Monday, May 9, 2022 9:22 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

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Dear City of Hamilton Clerk,

It pains us to write this letter in the wake of our city's most recent preventable road death on May 5th. This year alone there have been far too many vehicle-based pedestrian collisions throughout the Strathcona Neighbourhood (and Hamilton as a whole). Strathcona has some of the most dangerous intersections and roads including King and Dundurn, Main and Dundurn, Queen Street and York Boulevard. This has been a long standing issue that hasn't received the critical action it deserves. At this point, we are unsure what more can prompt change from Council. How many more citizens, your constituents, must die or be maimed before a safe road plan will be enacted? At the current 2022 pedestrian fatality rate in Hamilton, 2 to 3 persons will be killed by a motor vehicle per month. That equates to an entire small family killed. Every. Single. Month.

We are calling upon the City Council and the Mayor to go beyond what is proposed for future LRT/road plans and invest in emergency planning and implementation NOW to improve the safety of all users of the road, including motorists.

**We demand immediate traffic calming measures NOW in the interim to the development of safe and accessible streets with the LRT.**

**We demand human safety be prioritized over vehicular traffic flow when finalizing plans for the LRT and future road plans.**

A disclosure: we are not city planners by trade. We are informed, concerned and cautious road users. We are multimodal local commuters, all-weather cyclists and car owners. We walk to the grocery store and we walk our daughter to daycare. We urge the following recommendations for IMMEDIATE traffic calming measures based on our experience living in a neighbourhood choked by cars and transport trucks:

- **Immediate unsynchronization of the traffic lights along King and Main Streets**
- **Reduction of King W and Main W to 3 lanes maximum**
- **Conversion of outermost lanes to "Turn Only" with green infrastructure (i.e. concrete planters) and bump-outs to discourage travel in outermost lanes**
- **Remove parking restrictions along King and Main Streets during rush hour travel**
- **Get shovels into the ground NOW and start digging up King and Main between Queen and Dundurn to get the LRT show on the road**

Traditionally, roads were considered a public space that catered to a single demographic: motorists. There is no other city public space whose design is dictated by any single kind of user. It's high time that roads become safe and accessible by all those who use them. We implore you to make swift safety modifications to Hamilton's most dangerous roads and intersections.

Sean and Taryn Theriault

P.s. as we sit down to finish writing this letter, another preventable near-fatal vehicle crash has occurred at the intersection of Dundurn Street and King street West on May 7th. We hope this letter finds you before someone else dies from Council's reluctance and inaction.

Sean Theriault