

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Safer Main St and King St - Motion by Councillors Wilson and Nann

From: Yvette Cowe

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 10:16 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Safer Main St and King St - Motion by Councillors Wilson and Nann

Good morning,

I am writing to express my thanks to Councillors Wilson and Nann for bringing forward this motion to improve safety for all road users along Main and King Sts. Hopefully this will be the vanguard of a new street design policy that prioritizes safety over speed.

In the 16 years we have lived in Hamilton, and particularly in the last two years since the pandemic began, I've started to really pay attention to driver behaviour towards road users outside of cars. The hostility, and sometimes violence, displayed when their convenience is threatened has been escalating, and I believe it is time to design streets so that everyone can get to where they are going safely and conveniently, including drivers.

I could speak on this subject forever, but sticking with the immediate issues of Main and King, I agree with the prompt implementation of these traffic calming solutions:

*The de-synchronization of the traffic lights

*A buffer space between live traffic lanes and sidewalks (in whatever manner makes sense for the longterm development of the streets, taking into account the LRT)

*Wider sidewalks

*Narrower lanes

*Tree plantings or green spaces, placed close to the road so that they do not compromise visibility, but give the illusion of a more close space, which will prompt drivers to slow down without being explicitly told to do so

*Leading pedestrian intervals at traffic lights

*The elimination of right turns on red lights

Later, when all invested parties have been consulted ie Metrolinx and MTO, I agree with restoring both Main and King Sts to two-way traffic. I also hope for the area around the 403 to be improved for safety, although as I'm not a regular user of that area, I'll leave suggestions for those safety upgrades to people who are.

I hope that together, as Hamiltonian road users, we can come together to create a safe, convenient, and comfortable environment for everyone. It is time to move out of the 1950s car-centred idea of "progress", and move into an era where we design our city for *people*, not cars.

I thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing about forthcoming safety measures.

Sincerely,

Yvette Cowe

Resident of Ward 4 since 2006