

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Immediate action required to address traffic fatalities

From: Jason Morse

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 11:06 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; chad.collins@hamilton.ca; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Immediate action required to address traffic fatalities

Please accept the following correspondence regarding motor traffic safety in Hamilton, which is expected to be discussed by city council on May 11 2022.

People of Hamilton are suffering injury and death as a result of the city's road transportation system. Those responsible for the ongoing harm directly caused by motor traffic must immediately use all available measures to prevent further trauma to the population.

City council and staff know for certain that many more innocent people will be killed if the system remains unchanged. In fact, we expect people to be killed, and would be surprised if it didn't keep happening. This amounts to a promise by the authorities that fatalities will continue.

Eliminating risk to human lives is not possible while current levels of traffic speed and volume are maintained. No amount of driver education, deterrence, or enforcement is enough to prevent further tragedy. Motor traffic speeds must be reduced by design. There is no place in our neighbourhoods for one way streets that are five lanes wide. Along with timed traffic lights, they encourage fast driving, unsafe passing, and lane changes.

Neighbourhood vitality is also suffering. People do not voluntarily walk along the wide one way sections of Main and King streets. They're terrified of fast vehicles right next to narrow sidewalks. Detrimental health effects come from pollution such as noise, exhaust, and particulate matter, not to mention environmental harm from greenhouse gas emissions. It's sadly ironic the person most recently killed on Main Street West was not there by choice, but simply working at their job.

The time has long passed to reconfigure these dangerous high speed thoroughfares. Reducing the number of lanes, widening sidewalks, conversion to two way, and other interventions are well known to make streets safer for everyone inside and outside of vehicles. We cannot wait for LRT construction to begin making changes. Lanes are closed for repairs regularly. In the case of an emergency, immediate closures are implemented. This is an emergency. You are urged to take immediate action.

Respectfully,

Jason Morse