

**From:** Hitchcock, David <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:10 PM

**To:** Jackson, Tom <[Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca)>; Pauls, Esther <[Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca](mailto:Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 8 Office <[ward8@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward8@hamilton.ca)>

**Cc:** Ward 1 Office <[ward1@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward1@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** cycling infrastructure funding in the proposed 2026-2027 budget

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Councillors Jackson, Pauls, and Cooper,

I am writing to let you know why I support the items in the proposed Hamilton budget for funding cycling infrastructure. Although I live in Ward 1, I grew up on the Mountain (East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, just south of Queensdale, which I think is in Ward 7). And I have cycled to the Mountain from my present home in Westdale, for example, to the intersection of Mohawk and West 5<sup>th</sup> and to places just off Upper Paradise south of the Linc.

I see when I am cycling on the Mountain that very few people use the bike lanes there. So I can understand why you think putting money into cycling infrastructure is a waste of money.

I can assure you it is not.

Down here below the escarpment, the cycling infrastructure is heavily used, especially during warmer weather. (I cycled yesterday to Dundas, but met only one other cyclist on the way there and back.)

I have been cycling around Hamilton for more than 30 years. The network has gotten better and better during those years. These improvements have made it possible to cycle more or less safely from Westdale in all directions for several kilometres: to my mother's retirement home on Main West near Wentworth, to the downtown core, to Plains Road East in Burlington, along the harbourfront to Bayshore Park and beyond, to Wilson Street in Ancaster, to the Dundas Senior Citizens Centre, and to the above-mentioned places on the mountain.

But the network still needs improvement. For example, it is hard to find a safe cycling route from south of City Hall to Westdale.

My wife and I own our own single-family dwelling in Westdale, as well as two units in a downtown apartment building that we rent out. In 2025 we paid a total of slightly more than \$11,000 in property taxes on these three properties. I am happy that a very small fraction of this money is going to improving Hamilton's cycling infrastructure.

Cycling is great exercise, emits no additional greenhouse gases, is quick, and is cheap. Please support it.

David Hitchcock

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