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From: Mark Anderson [REDACTED] >

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 7:09 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written Delegation for GIC (Budget) February 06 2026

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Councillors, Madam Mayor,

I am writing to you as both a person who rides a bike for transportation and as a board member of Cycle Hamilton. In response to motion 9.5 and other motions that look to pause the Accelerated Active Transportation MAsterplan In 2019, this city declared a climate emergency. In 2022, Hamilton experienced a deadly year for vulnerable road users. In response, council course corrected in 2023. Those decisions mattered. People are alive today because of them.

After decades of doing the bare minimum on cycling infrastructure, this council approved the Accelerated Active Transportation Plan in January 2024. That was a recognition that slow, piecemeal change costs lives.

It may be politically convenient for some councillors to frame cycling as a niche issue, something for a small group of residents they believe do not matter or do not vote. That framing is wrong. Cycling infrastructure is not a special interest. It is a core part of building safer streets, improving accessibility, and creating a transportation network that works for more than just people behind the wheel of a car.

Cutting or pausing funding for the accelerated cycling plan does not simply punish people who bike. It makes streets less safe for pedestrians, seniors, children, and people with disabilities. It reduces options for people who cannot drive or cannot afford to drive. It undermines the very safety goals this council has publicly committed to.

The gaps in Hamilton's cycling network are already putting people at risk. In just the past week, multiple seniors have told me they are using bike lanes to walk to medical appointments and grocery stores because sidewalks feel unsafe or are poorly maintained. That is a direct consequence of incomplete and disconnected infrastructure.

As a ride leader with Kidical Mass Hamilton, I regularly hear from parents who say there are no safe routes for their children to bike to school. I still remember one of my first rides where a young child was riding on the sidewalk because their parent had told them, correctly, that the painted bike lane beside fast moving traffic was not safe.

This is the reality on the ground. Infrastructure decisions are not abstract. They shape daily behavior and determine who feels safe enough to move through this city.

Pausing or weakening the Accelerated Active Transportation Plan sends a clear message about whose safety is negotiable. I urge you to maintain funding and stay the course.

Lives depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mark Anderson

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Mark Anderson (He/His/Him)

