

From: Lyn Mallay <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 7:55 PM

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Subject: 2026 Budget Committee - Item 9.5 Deferral of Bike Facilities Crossing Red Hill Valley Parkway Project

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good evening,

I am a resident of Ward 7 but have included all members of Council to this email because I believe it is important that you all receive my message and my request to please vote against Councillor Francis' motion to defer bike facilities on the Red Hill Valley crossing (and any other similar motions brought forward through this process).

The need to address affordability for Hamiltonians is important. We all know this but the key is how we are going about it. I'm concerned that several Council members (my own included) are trying to lead the charge by attacking items that are viewed as controversial and, by the more right-leaning among us, less important. Those who speak out against climate change and bike lanes and yes, even poets are loud and eager to scream their thoughts into the void but there are at least an equal number of us who value the other side of the discussion and I use this opportunity to provide you with a different perspective.

Increasing active transportation and public transportation IS an affordability measure - it provides people, like me, with options. I can travel to and from work, school, stores, visits with friends and family SAFELY and without the need to buy a car, pay for gas, maintenance and insurance, and YES I cycle in the winter and <gasp> downtown - many of my friends and family do -and we would like to do it safely thank you very much. It would mean a lot to me if I can get home from work on my bike without fearing being run down by a 4000lb vehicle. For a city as large as Hamilton, we are way behind in providing safe active transportation routes for those of us who choose to get around without a car.

It is mind boggling that Councillors think they are defending affordability and standing up for residents without acknowledging that SAFETY needs to be the first priority here.

Councillor Pauls and others recently lamented about cycling during the winter. To paraphrase the question was "Why do we need bike lanes in the winter? Few people use them." I suggest that you consider that few people use playgrounds in the winter. Our outdoor pools are closed during the winter. Hiking trails are less travelled. Heck, even the sidewalk in front of my house doesn't get used as often in the winter. Shall we consider getting rid of all of these as well?

No! Because while we need to find ways to consider affordability, Hamiltonians also want a liveable city, a vibrant city and, most importantly, a SAFE city.

To those Councillors who take the time to look at the big picture over the soundbite, who thoughtfully consider both affordability and the things that are needed to ensure that we live in a fantastic city - thank you! Your commitment to making "Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully" is appreciated. To Councillor Pauls and others who do things like vote in favour of cutting rich developers a break and download costs to taxpayers while pretending they care about affordability - DO BETTER! We're smarter than that and can see the hypocrisy in front of us.

Councillor Pauls, I trust that you will give this constituent's opinions the same consideration as the ones you always mention who are emailing you. I'm your constituent too and expect that you will represent all of us, not just the ones who provide you with the opportunity to look good in a 10 second clip on the news.

Please continue to fund this very important infrastructure. You've already voted in favour earlier this term, there is no need to turnback now.

Sincerely,
Lynn Mallay
Ward 7