

From: Mykola Paskaruk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:34 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Fwd: Concerned Citizen asking for Representation

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello,

I had initially sent this message to my Ward councillor to consider and hopefully use while addressing the other constituents of city council during the Feb 6th meeting, and her office advised I also send it here for your consideration.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mykola

Mykola Paskaruk
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mykola Paskaruk <[REDACTED]>
Date: February 4, 2026 at 18:47:07 EST
To: ward1@hamilton.ca
Cc: mayor@hamilton.ca
Subject: Concerned Citizen asking for Representation

Dear Councillor Wilson,

Hello, I am a constituent of Ward 1. I've lived in Hamilton for a little over a decade and currently reside in the Strathcona neighbourhood.

In anticipation of the upcoming city council meeting (Feb 6). I would like to address some major concerns that I have heard floating around from other councillors. Specifically re. altering budgets addressing climate change and also establishing/maintaining bike lanes (in response to some detached-from-reality-sounding comments made by Councillor Pauls).

I am asking that you take note of this testimony and reflect it in the meeting. Please use it as proof if you need, and as you need.

I (and every other citizen living here) need the city to commit to funding positive climate-change-savvy policies and projects (investing in all of our futures wisely), NOT to cut climate action budgets or scale down those efforts.

Similarly, I need you and the rest of the council to keep committing to road safety...and not just for car-drivers. Well funded bike infrastructure AND EDUCATION must be a part of how we shape our future in terms of: long-term economics, environmental impacts, and road-safety measures.

Re. bike lanes:

I feel very passionately about this matter, especially since many other municipal (and even some provincial) politicians seem to be hellbent on gutting any bike-lane infrastructure we have. I am currently a school bus driver, but my own personal MAIN METHOD of transportation is my bicycle (in ALL seasons). It is cost-effective, far more environmentally friendly than many other options out there, and even more reliable (for me) than public transportation. As such, I have biked all throughout this city, up and down the mountain. And while we do currently have some infrastructure, WE NEED MORE, and it NEEDS to be SAFER and SMARTER/better planned. I have come to realize that there are even some cyclists who do not follow the rules of the road as they should, and quite honestly (through years of observation) that happens more in zones wherein there is no bike infrastructure...cyclists make poor decisions (like biking the wrong way on a road, against traffic; or not stopping for other traffic; or not signalling their intentions) which in turn is MAJORLY exacerbated by car-drivers making unsafe and unsure decisions around them. The only difference is that those car-drivers could kill somebody with a minor error.

Many of my safety related concerns are largely because much of Hamilton and the rest of Ontario is SO car-centric that it creates a plethora of safety issues for many of us out here. There are many car-drivers who appear to be ill-equipped to deal with cyclists. People become un-courteous, and even drive into bike lanes (whether it's through carelessness or some sick power play). I have encountered many a road-rageful driver, and sometimes even need to cycle with my u-lock at hand so exceedingly dangerous

drivers do not become tempted to play power games of chicken or worse. Biking through the city has taught me much in terms of road safety, rules, and courtesies. Anytime I come across a bike lane, I use it properly - and it provides me the peace of mind to have some safely secured space on the road. But not lanes all are designed equally. Some lead to nowhere, or are half baked (like whatever is running down part of the left side of King St. W just before Dundurn - which I do not personally consider to be an effective bike lane), or are so poorly maintained in the winter that they become hazardous. Some bike lanes are so poorly maintained in the summer (from broken glass to potholes) that flat tires are all too unnecessarily common. I know we make a lot of allowances for cars to travel safely...but not everyone has a car, or is able to drive.

As a school bus driver, unfortunately I have seen and experienced city driving and traffic in general getting worse (more impatient drivers, more dangerous decisions being made, and outrightly stupid/illegal things happening). To keep people safe, we deserve for the city to invest in properly designing and maintaining bike lanes, so that future cyclists can commute through the city (or to Burlington and surrounding towns etc.) without the stress of being killed in an instant by a careless driver. With some light research, one can find some bike routes that take one throughout safer paths...but we are all quite familiar with the inescapable quality of Hamilton roads, and bad drivers are not always easy to escape either. Road safety must be so comprehensive so that there is no question as to what signage means, and so that there is physical space delineated between cars and bikes, as much as possible.

Thank you for your service and representation. I hope you are someone I can continue to rely on and feel empowered in voting for, in the future.

All the best,

Mykola

Mykola Paskaruk

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]