

To: Mayor and City Council

I fully concur with the document authored by Lynn Chidwick, which you have received, related to the proposed Speedvale Avenue reconstruction. It is a comprehensive and detailed document, therefore I will not reiterate its contents. I will emphasize that as a lifelong commuter cyclist, I would draw your attention to sections 2.1.4 b), 3.1.1.b) and 3.2.2.5, as well as Appendix A. Frankly, the Emma-Earl bridge is a route I would never choose to use, because, like all commuters, cycling or otherwise, I always choose the fastest route to get from point A to point B.

As a member of Residents for a Safe Speedvale Avenue (RSSA), I also support the work of Marty Collier in his successful request to the province for a bump-up to the environmental assessment of this proposed project, given that it has not yet undergone a sufficiently comprehensive environmental assessment. In particular, I would suggest that members of council refresh their knowledge of the city's Natural Heritage Strategy which, as a member of the City Council that approved it, I feel is an excellent guide in protecting our natural resources. Adherence to this document would provide protection for the environmentally significant section of the Speed River which will NOT be protected under staff's current proposal.

In conclusion, I am opposed to the Official Plan Amendment required for the Emma-Earl Bridge project to proceed, and support both the NULL alternative and the bump-up environmental assessment request.

Maggie Laidlaw