

November 11th, 2021

Dear Guelph City Council,

Being completely dependent on cars is not only bad for the environment, it's also bad for communities and mental health. The strongest advocates for cars here are always riven with anger and entitlement.

I, like many Gen-X parents, grew up in stultifying, car-dependent neighbourhood. How many winters morning did the crappy car (the only one our family could afford) not start? How many tear-filled month ends did I have to empty my bank account to help my mom cover car repairs because we didn't have the money? I moved away from this area to Toronto and then Kingston because it offered me and my family the sheer liberation of **not being car dependent** with actual reliable transit and safe cycling facilities. It was indescribable. I used the money I saved to live a better life. The bus was and is always a liberating thing and a sure-fire way to get around.

I went almost a decade without a car, fully employed and socially active. I now own a car and use it when I must, but I also use both my bike and the bus every chance I get. Not only for the environment, but for my health and well-being my kid's health and well-being.

Kingston has chosen to invest greatly in public transit, cycling, and limiting parking, while my hometown of Guelph continues to dither. It appears much of you at City Hall do not take the need for quality transportation options seriously with many words spoken to the public and very little to show for it. Having reliable and fast buses, safe cycling lanes, good walking options, and parking minimums is the future of transportation in Canada and Kingston leads the way. I encourage the City of Guelph to get on board already and do better!

Thank you.

Max Bates

Former resident of Guelph, now living in Kingston, Ontario