

To the Attention of Mr. Mayor and Guelph City Council,

I am writing to express my support of Agenda item 2.3 Decision Report City Initiated Official Plan Amendment, Emma to Earl Pedestrian Bridge -2022-198.

I am a year-round cyclist and currently a resident in Ward 1. The Emma-Earl pedestrian bridge would provide safe passage for my family and I to the local businesses we shop at weekly on the West side of the Speed River and the North end of the Trans-Canada trail. Our current route includes either riding on Speedvale Avenue, that in the winter, at night, or with my 10-year-old is not safe, or taking the steep hill of Eramosa Rd.

For the community on the East side of the river, the Emma-Earl pedestrian bridge would link their neighborhood to the scenic and safe Trans-Canada Trail and make available the option to choose active transportation as means of travel, or perhaps a pleasant stroll downtown. I know that when I lived in Ward 3, the Trans-Canada Trail was a daily part of my daily commute, as well as a safe cycling route for my then 6-year-old.

I urge City Council to approve the staff recommendation.

Sincerely,

Richelle Forsey