

To the Guelph City Clerks,

I am writing as a Ward 1 resident regarding Agenda Item 2.3 for the June 13, 2022 City Council meeting on the "Decision Report City Initiated Official Plan Amendment, Emma to Earl Pedestrian Bridge -2022-198". I would like to express again my support for the new bridge.

This project promises significantly to improve transportation options and accessibility in Guelph while avoiding the enormous expense of adding bike lanes to Speedvale. As a cyclist, I consider Speedvale unsafe and would never cycle on it. I have also often found even walking across the Speedvale bridge in the winter to be unsafe. The sidewalks are frequently covered in snow and ice, and they are narrow enough that it would be easy to slip and fall directly into the traffic on Speedvale. There is currently, though, no other option for cyclists or pedestrians than to use the Speedvale bridge; the closest bridge to the south (at Norwich) is a full kilometre away.

The Emma to Earl bridge would resolve all of these problems: it would expand options and accessibility for cyclists and walkers and would be a much safer way to get across Speedvale in all seasons. It would help to expand active transportation in Guelph.

Yours truly,

Derek Hall