

Dear Mayor Guthrie ,Councillors, and City Staff.

As advocates of more safe and enjoyable Active Transportation Infrastructure in Guelph GCAT supports the recommendations of our fellow advocates at the Guelph Hiking Trails Club.

Throughout the Guelph Trails Master Plan consultation with stakeholders we also advocated for several new trail extensions from existing TCT and Spurline trails.

You will remember my many delegations regarding extending the existing GJR /TCT rail to Victoria Road from its current terminal downtown during the York /Elizabeth Land Use Study and Urban Design Concept Plan.

We also advocated for an extension of the current Spurline Trail starting at the TCT near the Emma To Earl Street bridge currently ending at London Road on Edinburgh .This GJR /trail extension would (potentially) safely and enjoyably connect neighbourhoods as far as the Junction and Sunny Acres areas.

We fully agree that,

“The GJR occupies a significant ROW footprint and valuable real estate corridor traversing from the South East to the North West through the economic downtown hub.”

A great benefit of using an existing rail corridor is the almost constant low ,accessible grade needed for trains but also making it ideal for biking,walking and rolling.

I have just finished listening to the excellent presentation of the highly respected City Planner Brent Toderian who was wisely invited to Guelph by our Chief Planner Krista Walkey , to advise the various city departments on what needs to be done to make our city sustainable and meet our interim and long term climate goals.

Here are some quotes from his slides:

“Your new OP and Zoning BY-Law needs Bigger,Bolder,Thinking.”

“Speed up your Transportation Mode Shift”

“You are an IDEAL bike city .Make it happen faster.”

““Make Guelph INSPIRING “

“The 6th Crisis :

A Leadership Crisis”

Please take his great advice.

We fully support the GHTC recommendations:

“that GJR be directed to take on a comprehensive RAILS WITH TRAILS strategy. A 15 km improvement opportunity corridor of separated trail for people who want to walk, or bike for employment, recreation, or commerce. It would run from Arkell RD to the bump stop atSilvercreek Parkway”.

Thanks

Mike Darmon

President GCAT