

Mayor and City Councillors,

I'm writing in support of the plans to construct an Emma to Earl St. pedestrian/bicycle bridge. When I lived on Dufferin St. during the pandemic I always attempted to avoid biking along Speedvale Avenue between Woolwich and Metcalfe since there is a lot of traffic and no bike lanes. The trial bike lane installed temporarily and seasonally by the city did allow for a safer biking experience, but created congestion for automobiles, sometimes backed up into the Woolwich/Speedvale intersection, especially when the train travelled along the railway daily.

The pedestrian/bicycle bridge will also facilitate access for walkers and bicyclists to essential services such as grocery stores in the Speedvale Mall and at Stevenson/Eramosa and health services along Delhi St.

The bridge will assist with trail connectivity along the Speed River since bikers and cyclists can go from Emma St. along Marlborough St. and cross Speedvale more easily than where the existing trail currently meets Speedvale.

As a former resident of this neighbourhood, who walked and biked to work daily along Woolwich, I observed many seniors walking or using scooters to and from the Evergreen Centre and the various condos and social housing locations on both Speedvale and Woolwich which are very near the Woolwich/Speedvale intersection. I hope the pedestrian bridge will create a more pleasant walking experience for everyone in this neighbourhood.

Sincerely, K. Vanessa Hyland