Mary Ann Burrows
November 9, 2023

Re: Multiyear Budget

Dear Members of Guelph City Council,

We are in a climate emergency. I am writing to emphasize the immediate need for investing in interconnected transit and active transportation networks in our city. Canada must reduce its carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 to meet our Paris Agreement goals. This council can take the truly courageous action needed to reduce Guelph's emissions by not delaying investment but bravely hastening the planned expansions for transit and safe bike lanes.

Please dedicate the Gas Tax grants (now called Canada Community-Building Fund) that Guelph receives from the Federal and Provincial governments solely to critical transit and active travel infrastructure projects. In 2023 Guelph received **$3,182,566** from the Provincial Government and **$8,723,200** from the Federal Government under this program. The Gas Tax monies can be used to **extend service hours**, **buy transit vehicles**, **add high frequency routes, improve accessibility**, or **upgrade infrastructure**.

Here is what Burlington did with its federal grant, see picture below.

Investing in transit and active transportation, using the Gas Tax grants, will create a more livable, vibrant, and sustainable City, and help Canada reach its emission reduction goals. Here are several other reasons why prioritizing active transportation is paramount, with transit as a complementary component:

- **Improved Health and Well-Being, including Mental Health**
- **Environmental Benefits**
- **Economic Opportunities**
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity**
- **Transit Synergy, better transit equals higher Gas Tax grants**
- **Traffic Reduction**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Safety and Public Health**

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to prioritize transit and active transportation investments for the betterment of our community. Let us seize the opportunity to invest wisely and quickly, creating a more prosperous, sustainable, and accessible Guelph for all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Burrows