

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my support for Councillor Gordon's motion, to the May 11 Council Meeting, that "staff be directed to prioritize work to close traffic lanes during the COVID-19 public health emergency to support social distancing by creating special separated active transportation routes in strategic locations with funding of up to \$50,000 reallocated from capital project New Sidewalk Construction (RD0283)."

It seems to me that, particularly as local business begin to re-open in the midst of COVID-19, we will need to think about how we move around the city while maintaining the safe distance that public health officials recommend. In this regard, and given how so many seem to be leaving the car at home and setting out on foot or by bike, the plan described in Gordon's motion seems like a good idea to me. With the weather improving, I have been encountering situations on a daily basis, when I am out walking or cycling, where I've had to step into the street to keep my distance -- I suspect that this will only intensify as businesses re-open around Guelph.

With Guelph's active transit infrastructure still in an early point in its development, compared with other cities, making more space for cyclists and pedestrians by closing some lanes at strategic points to automobiles seems like an easy and cost-effective solution to this physical-distancing dilemma that could also generate some good insights for future planning about how Guelphites respond when safe cycling and pedestrian options are made available to us.

Other cities across Canada seem to be having some success in implementing plans like the one described in Councillor Gordon's motion, so why not Guelph? I hope you will support Councillor Gordon's motion on May 11.

Sincerely,

Robert Case