

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support for Vision Zero and the City's commitment to making Guelph's roads safer for everyone—especially people walking, biking, and rolling.

Full disclosure: I worked as a consultant on the communication design of the Vision Zero Action Plan. However, I'm reaching out today as a Guelph resident who cares deeply about road safety and the need for urgent action.

My family relies on active transportation to get around the city. Daily conversations in our home include questions like, "What's the safest way to get there?" and "How would you feel about me biking on this street with the kids?" These concerns shape our everyday decisions about how we get to school, commute to work, and run errands. For families like mine who rely on walking, biking, and transit, safe streets are not a luxury—they're essential. As the City encourages more residents to embrace different modes of transportation, I urge you to invest in making data-informed decisions that ensure all residents, regardless of how they travel, can move safely through our city.

I'm excited about the combination of actions in this plan that reflect a Safe Systems approach—both the things we can start doing right away, like reducing vehicle speeds (Focus Area 5) and designing safer streets (Focus Area 4), and the bigger moves that will have a lasting impact, like planning for a city where less people are dependent on driving for daily trips (Focus Area 1). Together, these efforts will make Guelph safer now and in the future.

The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. While this plan was being developed, at least two community members lost their lives within walking distance of my home. We cannot afford to delay meaningful action on road safety.

Thank you for prioritizing this work and for your leadership in making Guelph's roads safer for all.

Jay Wall
Ward 2