

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I have delegated many times on the downtown renewal infrastructure project with emphasis on active transportation connectivity , but also supportive of making our downtown an attractive destination to support local businesses.

I am extremely pleased to see many of the design elements we have suggested incorporated into the recommended design for St. George Square.

This design will finally provide safe and enjoyable cycling Infrastructure through our downtown, and with future extended protected bike lanes , it will provide a connecting network grid from our street and trail systems enabling more active transportation.

For example, the Wyndham St Protected Bike lane could now connect to our downtown TCT trail near the Eramosa/ Woolworth intersection by either a bidirectional bike lane on upper Cardigan street or a short protected bike lane on Eramosa to Arthur street.

Full protected connectivity is vital to encourage more active transportation for those who will not use it unless it is safe and comfortable. The wide sidewalks and bus stops will also encourage walking and transit use and overall will increase modal share to less carbon intensive means of transportation while also increasing air quality. The narrower, treed street design will also reduce speed and noise making the downtown experience more pleasurable and make you want to linger longer in while shopping or dining on a patio.

I applaud City Staff for the many opportunities provided to engage on the excellent final design and incorporating suggestions for improvements into the final design .It has been a pleasure meeting with them in person .

Recommendation:

During road reconstruction, please consider providing a free shuttle service from the parking parkades using a small electric golf cart or an e- trike with passengers space. This service would encourage more use of the parkades, while accessible and regular parking spaces are not available. This service would also help businesses survive during this difficult period of time.

Thanks

Mike Darmon

GCAT Advocacy Co Chair