

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

I am writing to support strong investment in cycling and active transportation in the 2026 budget. These initiatives build a city that is safer, more inclusive, and more climate-ready.

The proposed reductions represent only 0.2% of the total revised 2026 city budget. This small saving would come at the cost of meaningful progress on affordability, safety, and sustainability for Guelph residents.

As we all know, when people can walk, roll, and cycle safely, everyone benefits. Families have affordable ways to get to school and work. Seniors can stay active and connected. Newcomers and youth can explore the city and access opportunities. Businesses thrive when streets are welcoming and easy to navigate. These daily trips are the heartbeat of a healthy and connected community.

I encourage Council to take three positive steps in the 2026 budget:

1. Restore winter bike lane snow removal to ensure safe, year-round travel.
2. Reinstate funding for sustainable transportation, including:
 - new sidewalk construction (RD0404)
 - cycling pavement marking (RD0452)
 - sustainable transportation programming (RD0392)
3. Add funding to Vision Zero to strengthen traffic safety and complete ongoing projects (TF0028).

Investing in active transportation creates lasting value. Well-maintained sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes support local business, improve public health, reduce emissions, and enhance quality of life. These networks help Guelph remain a city known for innovation, care for the environment, and commitment to safe, accessible mobility for all.

Please continue building on this momentum by restoring full funding for active transportation. These are smart, forward-looking investments that strengthen our community and create a city where everyone can move safely, affordably, and confidently.

Sincerely,

-Kyle

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KYLE MACKIE

