

Dear Mayor Guthrie, Rodrigo Goller, and Carly Klassen,

I am concerned to learn about the 2026 budget reductions to Guelph's cycling and active transportation programs.

Being able to get around Guelph safely by bike and on foot is a key part of my quality of life in this city. I use active transportation to take my own kids, along with other children I provide childcare for, to and from school every day. I bike to work most of the year. I try to walk or bike to get to shopping, errands, appointments, entertainment - most of my life activities. I've designed my life this way, and I deeply appreciate the ways that trails, paths, roads and bikeways are being designed in this city to improve my family's wellbeing. (Including the soon-to-be finished Emma-Earl bridge in my ward!) Active transportation is important for my family's physical and mental health, our finances, and our environmental impact, and investments in active transportation similarly benefit all Guelph citizens - so I believe funding of active transportation is important to the wellbeing of our city as a whole.

The 2026 Budget cuts affecting active transportation undermine our city's commitments to equity, safety, and climate action, and they also disproportionately harm residents who rely on affordable, sustainable ways to travel.

To address these concerns, I am asking Council to take these three specific actions that GCAT has recommended for the 2026 budget:

- 1) restore winter bike lane snow removal to ensure year-round safe travel for cyclists,
- 2) reinstate dedicated funding for sustainable transportation, including new sidewalk construction (RD0404), cycling pavement marking (RD0452), and sustainable transportation programming (RD0392), and
- 3) add funding to Vision Zero to compensate for the loss of automated speed enforcement cameras and development charges (TF0028).

These are essential investments in safety, accessibility, and climate responsibility.

Active transportation is essential for many Guelph residents like me, especially low-income families, youth, seniors, newcomers, and those without access to a car, who already face financial and social inequities to accessing community services.

There have been too many tragic deaths of pedestrians and cyclists in Guelph this year, and vulnerable road users, including children and seniors, face heightened risks on roads not designed to protect them. These cuts move Guelph backwards from achieving its Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. The ill-considered provincial elimination of automated speed enforcement cameras has also made investing in street safety even more important.

I urge Council to reconsider these reductions and restore full funding for active transportation programs and infrastructure. Investments in safe, connected, and well-

maintained routes are investments in equity, health, safety, and climate resilience. They benefit me, my family, and our whole community.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
Laura Andrighetti

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