

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

I am writing to you today as a daily user of the trails and bike lanes from the north end to downtown Guelph, and also as a part of a 1 car family that relies on bikes for safe transportation of a school age daughter and local family trips wherever possible.

I would like to draw attention to, and remind you of the need for all of the citizens of Guelph to have access to safe travel throughout the city no matter their choice of method of transportation, at any point in time, through ALL seasons and weather conditions.

The bike lanes and path systems (disjointed as they are at times) offer a lifeline to many citizens young and old who either choose to brave the elements, or are otherwise forced to rely on them due to inadequate transportation options, financial instability or any other number of reasons of which there are too many to address here.

Please do the right thing for the all of the citizens of Guelph.

Keeping the path and trail systems functional throughout the seasons reduces risks to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike, which will in turn keep workplaces functioning, reduce strain on support services, and prove the value of your significant investment in the betterment of our city through bike lanes/path systems and other active transportation initiatives.

Many thanks for your consideration on this matter.

I promise you that it matters more than you can imagine to the people who rely on these systems.

Please do not exclude many of the citizens of Guelph from safe and reliable transportation because of how their economic status or choice to embrace alternative means of transportation.

Sincerely,

David Bradfield.

█ pondview Crescent, Guelph, █, Canada

Ps.

You will find below the message crafted by GCAT created no doubt to make drawing attention to this issue as easy and simple as possible for the greatest number of people.

It is lengthy and thorough and you have undoubtedly read it over many times already. But if not .. I have left it intact just in case ypu haventbyet or would like to read it over one more time. :)

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the 2026 budget reductions to Guelph's cycling and active transportation programs. Not only do these cuts undermine our city's commitments to equity, safety, and climate action, they also disproportionately harm residents who rely on affordable, sustainable ways to travel.

To address these concerns, I am asking Council to take three specific actions in 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 not a luxury. For many Guelph residents, especially low-income families, youth, seniors, newcomers, and those without access to a car, walking, cycling, and using mobility devices are essential means of getting to work, school, shops, and community spaces. Reducing funding for safe and accessible active transportation infrastructure increases barriers for those already facing financial and social inequities.

The decision to scale back cycling and trail investments, eliminate winter maintenance of bike lanes, and delay projects from the Cycling and Trail Master Plans will make our streets less safe and less inclusive. Vulnerable road users, including children and seniors, already face heightened risks on roads not designed to protect them. These cuts move Guelph further from achieving its Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

Adding to these challenges, recent provincial legislation that prevents municipalities from using automated speed enforcement cameras has removed one of the most effective and equitable tools for traffic calming. With this avenue closed, Guelph must rely even more heavily on physical infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes, curb extensions, and safer intersections, to reduce vehicle speeds and protect vulnerable road users. Now is not the time to divest from safer streets; it is the time to double down on investments that prevent harm before it occurs.

These reductions also threaten progress on our Climate Action Plan. Shifting more trips to active and low-carbon modes is one of the most effective ways to reduce transportation emissions—the single largest source of greenhouse gases in our community. Slowing implementation of the Cycling Master Plan undermines our shared responsibility to meet these targets and leaves Guelph behind other cities leading on sustainable mobility.

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 everyone, not just those who cycle.

Please stand up for a city where everyone, regardless of income, age, or ability, can move safely and affordably.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address or Ward (optional)]

[Your Contact Information]