

November 17, 2025

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councilors,

I use the Waterloo Avenue bike lanes all year long for last-mile commuting to the University of Waterloo. Three times a week, I ride my bike to catch the 7:29 am Go bus from the transit hub, mount my bike on the bus bike rack, and then after getting off in Waterloo I ride the final 2 kilometres to campus. I repeat this trip in reverse in the evenings. The removal of winter bike lane maintenance from the budget concerns me greatly because it will cause me to have to ride in the driving lane, in the dark, without the protection of the bike lane. My winter tires are not good enough to keep traction in more than a ½ inch of snow, which will undoubtedly accumulate in the bike lane if the plow does not pass close to the curb.

I do not have any good alternatives to cycling. If I replace my morning bike commute with Guelph Transit, I'll have to arrive 20 minutes earlier at the Go bus platform and wait in the cold. And I will not arrive at my 8:30 am class on time at the University because the Go bus drop-off location is far from my classroom. Please do not remove winter bike lane maintenance from the budget. This will endanger me and the many other people who depend on cycling for getting to work, school, groceries and errands. I'm trying to do my part to reduce traffic congestion, reduce CO2 emissions and stay healthy, and this decision makes it very difficult for me.

Sincerely,

Claire Braden (Ward 3)