

From: Beth McEachen

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 2:46 PM

To: Mason, Kiersten <kmason@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Blackfriars Bridge

To whom it may concern,

I would love to attend the June 13th CWC meeting, with my interest being the long-term use of the Blackfriars bridge, but unfortunately I cannot be there.

In short, my family uses the bridge every weekday and Sundays, and we favour the bridge as it is now used - open to all traffic year round. It would be a great inconvenience for it to be open to motorized vehicles only in the spring and summer. My oldest sons bike to high school across the bridge and feel satisfied that the bike lane is wide enough for both bicycles and motorized vehicles to cross the bridge. They have not felt unsafe crossing the bridge at any time. This is our neighbourhood and we walk over the bridge and on the Thames Valley Parkway very often for leisure, and have never felt unsafe doing so. On the bridge, pedestrians are physically separated from the vehicles by the metal structure - unlike on many bridges where the only separation is the height difference of the sidewalk. I drive my daughter to school each day and need to do so as she has a large musical instrument to carry. Eastbound over the Blackfriars bridge is by far our best route. Certain areas of downtown are much easier to access by crossing this bridge rather than the Oxford or Riverside bridges. I have read the traffic study report, and it would suggest that there are enough people accessing Blackfriars bridge by car that it should remain open to this traffic, which would not make it inaccessible to cyclists or pedestrians in any way.

One potential recommendation is for there to be a crosswalk with blinking lights at the west side of the bridge for Thames Valley Parkway users, just like the crosswalk at the east side of the bridge. This crossing is directly following a speed bump for cars, so vehicles are already moving slowly, but if cyclists and pedestrians were concerned about safety, this would address that concern.

Thank you.

Beth McEachen,

Ward 13.