

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 12:43 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; Ferreira, David <dferreira@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Trosow, Sam <strosow@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; McAlister, Hadleigh <hmcaster@london.ca>; Cuddy, Peter <pcuddy@london.ca>; Pribil, Jerry <jpribil@london.ca>; Rahman, Corrine <crahman@london.ca>; Franke, Skylar <sfranke@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Pelosa, Elizabeth <epelosa@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>

Cc: LFP Letters

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Please Read: Blackfriars Bridge

Importance: High

Dear Members of Council:

I've lived on John Street now for 23 years. The refurbishing of the bridge, the landscaping and integration with the river trail system is a hidden jewel in our community. Why after such a significant investment in making London a livable city would you even consider "going backwards." I know progress and quality of life are but stories told of yesteryear but it doesn't have to be – you can have integrity! You can stand on the accomplishments of previous councils and tell those who seek to set us backwards with their selfish wants with few benefits and many harms - NO.

This area is where mothers with children congregate, where seniors rest between the ups and downs between Harris and Ann Street Parks, kids play on bikes, and it has become a community gathering place – because the dangers of London drivers with their panic irrelevance to save 30 seconds while readily risking the lives of those sharing the roads with them. Two way traffic would kill yet another of these special places within Ward 13. Less than 100 feet away is 75 Albert Street, a seniors residence – image your mom or dad facing off with rush hour traffic. How soon before tragedy strikes a senior, a child or a mother, because this is what two way traffic will bring to Blackfriars Bridge.

And please, while you each were elected to London City Council, please stop toying with my Ward and focus on your own for a change – downtown is not the place for your willy-nilly ideas that seems to be a convenience for those in YOUR wards but create an increasingly unlivable climate for those who reside in the core's Ward 13 and for whom you rely on for your food and coffees daily. I tell everybody everywhere that London is full of 'Bleeps' – this is one of the clearest examples of the selfishness that transpires as progress in our community.

I implore you – for those of use who love our community, the river and yes, the bridge – perhaps you could step out of city hall one afternoon and WALK across it to enjoy a coffee at the Blackfriars Café, or enjoy your lunch in the park that OUR tax dollars already paid for where the bridge, trails and Ridout Street meet, to see what we enjoy and what your consideration is putting at risk.

Thank you
Ben Benedict