

Please add to the April 1st, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda package.

Dear Councillor Stevenson,

As a lifelong resident of Ward 4, a regular cyclist for both transportation and recreation, and someone with a background in community development and city planning, I was deeply disappointed to learn of your recent motion to remove proposed cycling network additions from the Mobility Master Plan.

London has an opportunity to become a safer, more accessible, and more forward-thinking city when it comes to active transportation. The removal of planned bike lanes from Huron, Taylor, McNay, and Sterling Streets undermines that progress. These streets are key connectors for cyclists in my community— whether they are students, workers, families, or seniors— who rely on safe and dedicated infrastructure to get around. Eliminating them from the plan sends a clear message that cycling is not a valued mode of transportation in our city, despite the overwhelming evidence that investments in bike infrastructure improve safety, economic activity, overall quality of life, while reducing the costs of living.

I understand that some residents may be opposed to spending money on bike lanes, but cities that invest in active transportation see long-term benefits, including reduced congestion, lower infrastructure maintenance costs, and increased local business activity. Cycling infrastructure is not just for current riders— it encourages more people to get on bikes, reducing the number of cars on the road and easing pressure on our transit system.

Additionally, I am concerned about the recent vote to explore a six-lane general traffic expansion on Wonderland Road. I have shared detailed thoughts regarding this in a previous email to Council as a whole, but I will reiterate here— widening roads has been shown time and time again to create more traffic rather than alleviate congestion. Prioritizing car-centric development over sustainable, multimodal transportation options is a step backward for London. If there is to be an investment in widening Wonderland, ensuring dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and cycling infrastructure should be non-negotiable.

I urge you to reconsider your position on these matters and to advocate for a city that prioritizes accessibility, sustainability, and long-term economic growth. I encourage you to listen to the voices of residents who see cycling as an essential part of our transportation network, not an afterthought.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kevin

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Kevin Van Lierop