

London is in the process of deciding on whether to create a Cycling Advisory Committee. Having a committee dedicated to the needs of cyclists would be a huge step forward for London and I urge you as a city councillor to support this motion.

There are many reasons why.

- London is practically the only city of its size in Ontario that does not have CAC
- As Ontario's new cycling strategy recognizes, cyclists have unique needs compared to cars and trucks.
- The city of London has made commitments to active transportation and complete streets. A CAC is critical to London meeting those commitments.

Beyond transportation and the obvious health and environmental benefits, a Cycling Advisory Committee would also help London achieve many of its socio economic goals.

- **Retention of our young entrepreneur, professionals and graduates.** The number of young professionals choosing to live and work in our downtown is increasing and the number of people under the age of 30 getting drivers' licenses has dropped dramatically. London must become a cycling and transit friendly city to compete for the best and the brightest.
- **Reduction of infrastructure debt.** It was recently revealed that London has a massive road infrastructure debt. Investment in the construction of bicycle facilities such as multi-use paths yields an economic return of approximately nine times the initial expenditure for the local economy
- **Reduction of energy consumption.** London recently put out a call for neighbourhood energy plans. Neighbourhoods with dense development, high street connectivity, and access to transit opportunities will consume up to 25% less energy from motorized vehicles compared to neighbourhoods built without active transportation in mind.
- **Jobs creation.** London continues to struggle with unemployment. Cycling infrastructure projects create a total of 11.4 local jobs for every \$1 million spent and pedestrian-only projects create 9.9 jobs per \$1 million, while road-only projects create 7.8 jobs per \$1 million

London has fallen behind other cities with regards to cycling. Cyclists feel unsafe in London. The London Cycle Link Surveyed 500 Londoners and most people when surveyed this spring, many reported that they would love to bike to work but do not feel safe on our roads. We talk a lot about complete streets but we are yet to build one. An Advisory committee on cycling would provide input and advice on where to spend our stretched infrastructure budget to help create a cycle friendly city.

Give London cyclists a voice!

The Current model that sees cycling interests represented through the Transportation Advisory Committee is a failed model and has left London's cyclists with no effective voice or input to planning. 85% of the LCL cycle survey respondents said London needs an organization that will represent cycling interests at council.

A Cycling Advisory Committee would create an input device for neighbourhood planning and road planning that would be people centric but rather than car centric. It would focus on how to move people and families around our city instead of just cars. Had such a committee existed it would not have gone unnoticed in the planning process for Saint Andre Bessette Catholic secondary school that there was no safe active transportation plan for the students.

Create a Cycling Advisory Committee

Following the successful model of many North American cities by creating a Cycling Advisory Committee would be a huge step forward for the Forest City as we strive to become the world class city we all know we can be. When this issue comes back to the Civic Works Committee and then onto city council in November **I am asking you to vote in favour of creating a dedicated Cycling Advisory Committee.**