

December 1st, 2013

Dear members of the Corporate Services Committee:

I write to you today to share with you why I believe establishing a Cycling Advisory Committee is important and necessary and why I believe cycling in general deserves more attention.

Let me tell you a little about myself first. I currently don't own a car, although I used to, and my wife and I hope to never again require one. We choose to rely mostly on cycling because we enjoy the exercise built in to our day, the greater awareness of our surroundings, the reduced costs, and the reduced impact to our earth. This choice can be difficult at times, and we both desire to live in a city where cycling is safer and is a more viable mode of transportation.

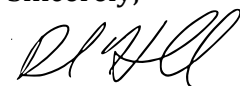
In my observations, cycling in North American cities was, until recently, a mode of transportation that was forgotten about. Or if not forgotten, planned around the concept of bicycles as vehicles, which is equally destructive. Pedestrians have sidewalks, cars have roads, but cyclists have nothing. We've had to share the infrastructure provided for others while dealing with the conflicts of doing so – the law preventing sidewalk use, or riding at the mercy of drivers. We need to further the process of providing infrastructure that allows for safe and easy movement of cyclists throughout the city.

A Cycling Advocacy Committee could provide valuable input into making this infrastructure a reality. This committee could take many roles, but I want to highlight some things I believe it could do well:

- + advise on and advocate for context-specific infrastructure such as protected bike-lanes;
- + encourage a network-wide approach to route and infrastructure planning;
- + advocate for eliminating barriers to cycling such as parking or shower facilities;
- + and advocate for more compact forms of development.

I am not naïve. I understand that my wife and I are not the majority by any means. However, if we as a city want to encourage cycling, we need to plan for the 'yet-to-be' cyclists. For the people who would be willing to ride if it was safer and more convenient. Let's plan our city for this group of people and everyone will benefit.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hall
London Resident