

I realize today is the day the Corporate Services committee is considering whether to institute a Cycling Advisory Committee and as a member of the London Cycling Club and the London Centennial wheelers, (but without formal mandate), as an individual I am writing to support the creation of such a body.

Please support the creation of a Cycling Advisory Committee (CAC).

London is currently deciding whether to create a dedicated committee that would represent cyclists' needs in planning and transportation issues. The creation of such a group would be a huge step forward in making London the world-class city we all know it can be, and I urge you to support it.

There are many reasons to support a Cycling Advisory Committee:

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

Cycling is good for people and the economy

Beyond transportation and the obvious health and environmental benefits, a Cycling Advisory Committee would also help London achieve social and economic goals:

- **Encourage the retention of young entrepreneurs, professionals and graduates.** Young professionals appear to prefer to live and work in vibrant downtowns, and the number of people under the age of 30 getting drivers' licenses is dropping dramatically. Having a cycling friendly infrastructure would be an additional incentive for retention.
- **Reduce 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 will yield a return for the local economy approximately nine times the initial expenditure.
- **Reduce energy consumption.** The city recently put out a call for neighbourhoods to propose how they can help all Londoners use less energy. 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.

The current model isn't working

With all due respect, the current model that sees cycling interests represented through the Transportation Advisory Committee is a failed model. It has left London cyclists with no effective voice or input to planning. There is often talk in the city of "complete streets," but London has 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.

Please support 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. When this issue comes back to the Civic Works Committee, **I ask you to vote in favour of creating a dedicated Cycling Advisory Committee.**

Thank you.

Donald J. Rycroft