

To those with the power to make change,

I just arrived home from a longer ride on my bike, most of which was within the city of London. I have a few things to share about my experience.

First off, I would like to say that I applaud London in making cycling infrastructure a priority, and that I feel it is a valuable investment that will pay off well in years to come. Some of the areas that have been focused on have made it much easier to ride, such as Colborne St (which I live on and use regularly) and Sarnia Road. Both areas still have some areas to improve, but they are much better than they have been in the past.

My main concern that inspired me to write this email is about the conflict between cycling routes and bus stops, particularly on Queen St downtown and King St from the forks to Citi Plaza. I have copied this email to the LTC as well so that they are aware of what some of their drivers are up to and can provide some education regarding cyclists to them if that is what is lacking.

On my ride today, I was cut off by a bus merging back into traffic on Queen just east of Richmond (I'm assuming that they didn't see me already on the left side of the bus, #153 around 5:30pm on Tuesday July 3rd), and then another bus blocked both the bike lane and part of the regular lane of traffic in front of the courthouse, waiting for another bus to leave the stop in front of them. This caused a very dangerous situation for me to be in. Only a couple minutes later, heading west on Riverside just past Wharncliffe, another bus was driving between stops taking up at least half of the designated bike lane. It is one thing to have to deal with incompetent members of the public driving their cars on the roads, but I was blown away with what I experienced at the hands of the LTC drivers along that stretch today.

My other concern that I would like addressed since it is part of my regular route, almost daily, is the conflict between busses and cyclists on King Street. Bikes already have to be extra cautious when there is parking on their right near the market, busses only make things a hell of a lot worse. The worst spot and I think one of the most dangerous is the underpass through Citi Plaza. The noise from the busses, traffic and Citi Plaza's Mechanical rooms up above make bike horns/bells useless and the fumes that collect in the air are terrible, especially when the busses are sitting, waiting at the stops. Sometimes there can be up to 6 buses in that area. It is also very dark and so other cars mixed with buses moving over to the curb and then merging back into traffic makes cycling along there a life or death obstacle adventure!!!

I know that there are better ways and I hope that the city can start to implement some changes to protect cyclists and streamline public transit so it works for everyone. Thanks for your time.

Cheers,

Brian Groot

*More powerful than the will to win is the courage to begin.*

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