

## More Uses For Bicycles In London

It is now completely apparent that our Industrialized lifestyles are destroying our planet and therefore threatening all that we are and all that we do! In the spring of 2019, London City Council declared a 'State of Emergency' in response to climate change. At last count, over 60 Canadian municipalities had made this same declaration, as well as thousands of other communities around the world.

Now, it's time to do something about it!

In order to negate our impact on local and global environments and ecosystems, it is imperative that we evolve the way we are living on this Earth... and that begins in our community! We must look for new ways to get around our communities, that have a net zero outcome! Below, I offer two suggestions that I feel will offer a new and refreshing approach to urban transportation...

### 1) Cycling For The Elderly and Disabled

This summer, while I was waiting to pick up a passenger (I am a driver for London's Paratransit program) at the Dearness Home (located at Southdale Road and Wellington Road) I was delighted to see something that I had never seen before. There was a university student volunteer sitting on a bicycle that was designed with a passenger sitting area at the front end of the bike!

I asked about the bicycle and the program and learned that (in a nutshell), The Dearness Home had several volunteers who took residents from the home on bicycle rides throughout the property of the home. I asked the female resident (after she had been assisted out of the passenger seat) if she enjoyed the program and she was all smiles. The volunteer cyclist told me that this simple, yet effective program was the highlight for the day for many residents of the Dearness Home... and I can clearly understand why!

I posted the about this program on my Facebook site and I tagged several City Councillors and recommended that the City of London embrace this idea and expand this kind of program. Steve Hillier responded and (although I can't remember exactly what he said) I got the impression that this program at the Dearness Home was already sponsored by the City of London... or that the City of London was somehow involved in this wonderful effort!

So, to this point I can speculate that, many City staff workers may already be aware of this program and budgets, manufacturing of this style of bicycle, and program details, including administrative details may already be in place, offering a foundation upon which to grow. I was again delighted to learn this information.

My wanted results are as follows:

- 1) I want the CAC to gather more information on this program, to find out more about how it is operated, how much it costs to run, etc.
- 2) I want this information to be used to set up a sub-committee in the CAC to further explore the feasibility to expand on this program throughout the City – to include hospitals, retirement centres, Respite housing for the disabled, etc. I would suggest that programs offer transportation to London's elderly and disabled to other locations than just around the properties of the care facilities – like local supermarkets, restaurants, parks, etc.
- 3) I would hope that steps 1) and 2) would prove that a program of this nature would be of great benefit for the City of London and its residents and that the CAC will move a motion forward to present their findings to the appropriate City departments in order to expand upon this initial initiative or to create another program similar in concept.

End

## 2) New Cycling Transportation System for London's Core

Most Londoners are very familiar with the many seater bicycle that is used only a few times each summer. I would guess that it can transport around 40 people at one time (I'm not sure about the exact numbers). As this bicycle makes its way through London's core, bystanders smile and wave and are much delighted with this effort.

The idea that I want to bring to the attention of the CAC, is to create a number of these styles of bicycles to offer residents an alternative to City bus riding and automotive transportation through the core of London. I can envision a simple plan, now, and I believe that if this simple plan becomes a reality, then an expansion of this program would be the next likely outcome...

Imagine, if you will, two bicycle routes in London's core that would offer pick-up and drop-off locations for residents along two downtown streets. I imagine one route taking residents up and down Richmond Street – with route end loops around or near UWO (for the north end point) and somewhere just south of Horton Street (for the south end point). I imagine the second route traveling east and west along Dundas Street (or another parallel road) with west end point loops around Wharncliffe Road and east end point loops around or near Quebec or Egerton Street.

The 40 passenger seating bike would have designated pick up locations (just like the City buses do), that would allow passengers to get on and off the bicycle.

Paying bus tickets or other types of fares would cause a little confusion, as the bike's main operator is at the front or possibly the back of the bike (I'm not sure exactly how they operate), so I suggest waiving all fares and having this program run completely on tax dollars.

There are cities around the world that use tax dollars to offer a free ride on all their urban transportation systems, to citizens, and I'm confident that this would be the best approach to this new system of transportation.

My wanted results are as follows:

- 1) I want the CAC to gather more information to support the creation of this program, to find out more about how it would be operated, how much it costs to run, etc.
- 2) I want this information to be used to set up a sub-committee in the CAC to further explore the feasibility to create this program throughout the City's core regions.
- 3) I would hope that steps 1) and 2) would prove that a program of this nature would be of great benefit for the City of London and its residents and that the CAC will move a motion forward to present their findings to the appropriate City departments in order to develop a program of this nature.

As humanity evolves into a Post-Industrial civilization, it is imperative that we use the tools we have already created in new and unique ways that will allow us to change how we live on this Earth, so that we can enhance our lifestyles as well as enhance local environments and ecosystems. I have presented the CAC with two ideas that will do just that!

Change is an ever-evolving series of small adjustments. These two ideas are small in concept and design and I believe that with their implementation that they will continue to evolve in ways that we can not quite imagine, at this point in time... but I'm confident that these two ideas will begin a significant lifestyle change for residents within London, that will benefit us now and into our united future.

End

Thank you for your time and interest,

Jim Kogelheide