

March 25, 2021
Ben Cowie
355 Clarence Street
London, ON N6A 3M4

Jamieson Roberts
Chair, Cycling Advisory Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON

Dear Mr Roberts,

Please accept my resignation from the City of London's Cycling Advisory Committee. I applied for this position after the City declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019, believing cycling would be a part of the city's plan for climate action. In the nearly two years that have followed, the City has not brought forward a systematic plan to address its main source of emissions: transportation. The lack of progress is both frustrating and terrifying, as someone with a deep understanding of the climate emergency, and as a father to a child who will have to live through the results of our choices.

Cycling is an essential part of every city's climate action plan, providing zero-emissions transportation that scales affordably with the suburban built environment that dominates our city. The greatest barrier to the adoption of utility cycling by people of all ages and abilities is the (inexpensive) safety of a protective barrier separating dangerous motor vehicles from people riding bicycles on city streets. London's stunning lack of progress on protected bike infrastructure compared to other cities its size and scale is inexplicable, and irresponsible given the stakes of a disrupted climate system. The City continues to prioritize fast flowing motor vehicle traffic and convenient free private vehicle storage (parking) ahead of cyclist (and pedestrian) safety at every turn, and has not demonstrated any meaningful action toward solving the planetary emergency during my time on committee.

We have fewer than nine years to decrease our emissions by 50%, and together we have squandered the first two years of our opportunity to preserve a habitable planet for our children. The time to "wait and see" has long passed, and radical action is now required to avoid catastrophic failure of our planet's ecosystems, including our own food, water, and energy systems.

I wish all of my colleagues on this committee the very best. You all have been an incredible team and passionate advocates for building a better city. Thank you for your time, friendship, and service.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Benjamin R. Cowie
Ph.D. Geology and Geophysics