



## HELPING LONDONERS **RIDE MORE**

September 9, 2021

Dear City Council,

London Cycle Link is a member-supported, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to helping Londoners ride bikes more. Through education, advocacy and community-building we envision a healthy, vibrant London where cycling is safe and convenient for everyone.

**London Cycle Link supports the advice of City staff in recommending the suspension of both the Discover Wonderland Environmental Assessment and the widening of Adelaide Street North.**

Staff's recommendation is a direct result of Council's previous declaration of a **climate emergency** and request for civic administration to report back on tangible actions that the municipality can undertake to reduce the city's harmful impact on the environment.

Let us remember that in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that "to keep the rise in global temperatures below 1.5C this century, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be cut by 45% by 2030" ([BBC News, 2019](#)).

The widening of Wonderland Road is scheduled to take 12 years to complete. In 2018, the IPCC gave the world 12 years to drastically reduce emissions. The climate emergency is not a partisan issue. It is a catastrophic disruption of the natural world. Let's pause for a minute, and consider our priorities.

But if that's not enough, **research** shows that while widening jammed roads may increase traffic flow in the short-term, over the long-term the trend generally reverses due to induced demand ([Bloomberg, 2018](#)).

Financially, according to the City of London's CEAP mid-term review (2014-2018), supporting cars means money leaving the economy. According to the report, we spend \$480 million on gasoline, only 7% stays in London. Let's rather support fewer cars and more active transportation options.



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It was pointed out at the civic works committee meeting (Aug.31) that wider roads require longer lights so that pedestrians have time to safely cross. It was noted that the idling of cars, while waiting for pedestrians to cross, was also likely to reduce potential efficiencies.

It would be more prudent to address **specific concerns** on these roads, rather than widening the roads in their entirety. At the last civic works committee meeting, Councillor Lehman expressed concerns over traffic congestion at specific intersections, and was assured that isolated issues (e.g. the intersection of Beaverbrook and Wonderland) could be resolved independently.

In our view, work in these areas would be better focused on improving active transportation infrastructure, such as: repaving existing bike lanes and installing new protective safety measures; repairing existing sidewalks nearing the end of their lifecycle; and planting new trees which in time would provide greater shade cover to active transportation users.

**For the reasons mentioned, London Cycle Link asks that Council approve the recommendation from Civic Works to suspend the Discover Wonderland Environmental Assessment that considers a six-lane widening of the Wonderland Road corridor; and, suspend the corridor widening component of the Adelaide Street North Environmental Assessment between Fanshawe Park Road and Sunningdale Road.**

Kind regards,

Molly Miksa  
Executive Director, London Cycle Link