

From: Lincoln McCardle

Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:47 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Cc: Fyfe-Millar, John <jfmillar@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please allow Blackfriars Bridge to remain closed to motor vehicles

Good afternoon,

My name is Lincoln McCardle and I am writing to you today on behalf of my beloved Blackfriars Bridge. I do understand that the restriction to allow only active transportation on this historic span was originally introduced as a temporary COVID-19 physical-distancing measure. So for starters I would simply like to remind you that this pandemic is ongoing, despite all of our wishes to the contrary, and not something to be considered a past event. Like many others I have spent a fair bit of time visiting this area in the last couple of years and have greatly enjoyed the relative quiet and breathtaking views this area offers.

I am fully aware that there will come a time, perhaps even sooner than later, when this bridge may be required to carry vehicular traffic due to construction but today is not that day. For the time being there are plenty of other options for traffic and scant few who want to enjoy nature in the core of our city without competing with vehicles. It is my belief that with the cold weather approaching the required winter maintenance of salt and sand to accommodate cars may once again mean future deck replacements and accelerated corrosion of the metal structure. You don't clean a heritage gem with sandpaper and salt if it can be avoided.

Clearly I am not alone in my sentiments, the Civic Works committee recently recommended that the Blackfriars Bridge stay open only to active transportation and I hope you will consider the well-thought out arguments offered at that time. Additionally, at the time of writing (10:35AM, Friday, Nov. 5th) the petition to "Designate Blackfriars Bridge for active transportation only" has 842 signatures, (www.change.org/p/city-of-london-designate-blackfriars-bridge-for-active-transportation-only) which to remind you is more than 12x the number of people that was required to appoint the recent ward 13 Councillor.

In closing, over the past 18 months, it has been demonstrated that this one-way bridge is unnecessary to move traffic into the downtown core. And I suppose I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that our city recently declared a climate emergency- and maybe we should act accordingly? Heritage treasures such as this historic span are a non-renewable resource and any actions we can take, even small temporary ones, can make a big difference long term. Please include this submission on the November 16th, 2021 council agenda and thanks for your time.

Stay warm and all the best,
Lincoln