



MEMO

To: Cycling Advisory Committee

From: Daniel Hall, Program Manager Active Transportation

Date: January 19, 2022

Re: **Improving Comfort on Existing Bike Lanes**

In recent years, the focus of cycling infrastructure in London has been introducing protected facilities that serve all ages and abilities and the “interested but concerned” user. This approach:

- improves safety for all road users and increases cyclist comfort,
- aligns with the latest design guidance in Ontario and around North America, and
- prioritizes cycling investments that serve the most Londoners, maximizing the benefits and the value for money.

While painted bike lanes can provide an all ages and abilities facility in the right context, there are many existing bike lanes that serve confident cyclists only. To achieve City Council’s strategic goals of increasing access to transportation options and improving safety for all modes of transportation, many of these existing bike lanes will need to be enhanced to serve a wider audience. Adding physical elements such as bollards or concrete curbs between the bike lane and vehicles lanes will improve comfort and safety, provide a viable transportation option for more Londoners, and is cost effective.

When evaluating if adding physical elements is possible, the following is considered:

- Barrier Type – What physical element is appropriate for the context?
- Geometry – Is there sufficient room for physical elements and a buffer in the existing roadway? Are the bicycle and vehicle lanes wide enough to meet minimum design standards?
- Users – Who will the enhancements serve? What are their needs?
- Cost – What are the impacts to the capital and operating budgets for the preferred treatment? Are these increased costs justified by the expected ridership?
- Winter maintenance – Can the physical elements remain during winter? Where will the snow be stored which is a particular challenge on wider four-lane roads? Will sidewalk clearing operations be impacted? Will snow melt create a slip hazard in the bike lane?

Enhancing existing bike lanes will be an ongoing task over many years. This committee is requested to provide feedback on two locations for where to develop a pilot installation to answer these questions:

1. Riverside Drive between Woodward and Wilson (extends the East-West Bikeway to the west), or
2. Fanshawe Park Road between Wonderland and Medway Creek (extends the Fanshawe Park Road cycle tracks further west)

It is anticipated one of these projects could be completed this construction season or next and would provide valuable insight that could be applied to similar enhancements in the future.

Regards,
Daniel Hall, P.Eng

c: Doug MacRae, Director, Transportation and Mobility
John Parsons, Division Manager, Road Operations
Garfield Dales, Division Manager, Transportation Planning and Design