

From: Howard Miller

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:55 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safer walking and biking on City trails, walk facing the facing the traffic!

In the June 22, 2022 London Free Press there was an article about Electric Cargo Bikes by Megan Stacey. In that article accessibility advocates raised the issue of risk to many with disabilities who may not be able to see or hear them coming.

It is this risk component I would like to address but not limited to electric bikes but to the sharing City bike paths between foot traffic and wheeled traffic, this goes back to my steadfast belief in Elmer the Safety Elephant, once taught in primary schools: Walk facing the traffic!

A few years ago I visited Rhode Island and while biking on their walking/bike paths anywhere in the State; pedestrians walked facing the traffic and wheeled modes of transport like bikes, roller bladers, electric wheelchairs, and now E-bikes, followed all the rules of the road. "Pedestrians walk facing the traffic!"

When you walk facing the traffic you can see what is coming at you and the wheeled person can make eye contact with you; it makes it much easier and safer for both walker and rider.

It took a bit of time to get in the habit of walking on the left of the pathway but it sure made me feel safer. I suggest this simple safety approach be taken by the City of London.