

To whom it may concern,:

As a taxpayer and resident of London's Ward 13 ,I cross Blackfriars bridge virtually every day.

I do so as a pedestrian, as a cyclist, and as a motorist.

**I urge council to vote to continue with the current bridge configuration providing one-way access for people driving cars and two-way access for people walking and riding bikes.**

To close the bridge to vehicular traffic would represent a massive abuse of eight million taxpayer dollars simply to appease one vocal constituency at the expense of the common good. (For context, the TVP connection between Moss Park and Huron Flats, opened in 2020, at a cost of \$6.3 million and included the pathway construction, two bridges and landscaping with over 450 trees and 1050 shrubs.)

As a frequent user of the thoroughfare, whether on foot or while cycling, I have never, NOT ONCE, found the one-way vehicular traffic an impediment or a danger. Indeed, I could argue that, by my observation, motorists on the bridge are courteous and cautious. The same cannot be said of many cyclists, (and I write this as a frequent cyclist), who speed down the hill from Ridout towards the pedestrian crossing, or who cross on the TVP assuming they have the right of way.

The bridge is also a natural connection for the Blackfriars community to the downtown. Closing it would force residents to take longer and more arduous routes to reach downtown destinations – again, to appease a particular constituency.

There may be some merit to suggesting closing the bridge at weekends over the summer months in the same way other cities limit popular routes for recreational activities, but prohibiting vehicular traffic completely from May to October would lead to a massive underutilization of a public asset and a slight to the very community that uses it the most (Note the underutilization of the Colborne Street bike lanes.)

The current configuration of the bridge is as it was intended, and it ought not to be changed.

Regards,

Norman

**Norman N. Sproule**

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