

[REDACTED]

From: Hailey's Comet [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 10:24 PM
To: CWC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding The Use of Blackfriars' Bridge

Hello to the Civic Works Committee Members,

My name is Hailey Tallman, a life-long Londoner who chooses, for many reasons, NOT to own a car. From 1997-2021 my parents lived in the Cherryhill area, and I would walk downtown along Blackfriars' from our house. There really was and is no other pleasant option, as Oxford is not a people-friendly place, and Riverside has become very busy as well.

London's city councils have often put the convenience of drivers over preserving our natural areas, the quality of life of residents, or safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

With climate change rearing its ugly head all around us, do we really want to prioritize speeding vehicles over our beautiful, historic bridge, giving people one more reason to hop in their vehicle instead of walk or cycle downtown? Remember that City Council declared we are in a climate emergency back in 2018/2019? We need to be de-incentivising driving every chance we get to preserve our air, quality of life, mental health, not to mention reviving downtown with more spaces for people and less space for cars. Providing a thoroughfare through the Blackfriars' neighbourhood for cars to speed through is not going to help the businesses in that area to thrive. Imagine what that neighbourhood could attract if it were much more pedestrian friendly - the shops that would open up, the gardens, parks, community gatherings - it would become a really peaceful nature hub and increase property value!

I urge you to consider proposing the permanent closure of Blackfriars' Bridge to cars, and a permanent opening to people and community!

Thank you,
Hailey Tallman
[REDACTED]