**Presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Infratructure & Renewal and EPC**
**Re: Active Transportation Corridors, Recreational Walkways and Bike Paths**
**December 2008**

My name is Sigrun Bailey; I am the Co-Chair of the River East Neighbourhood Network Trail Committee, which I am representing here today. I would like to commend the City on creating an Active Transportation Committee and am impressed with the work that the committee has done to date. The work which has been completed is an excellent first step in the right direction. This has been proven and can be seen everyday on the Northeast Pioneers Greenway (NPG). On a daily basis you will see early morning commuters, seniors out with their walkers, childern from local daycares out for a stroll, people in wheelchairs, families with little ones on tricycles and in strollers, rollerbladers, skateboarders, people out to get their groceries and others just out for the exercise. I have to say , it is very rewarding to see the amount of traffic on the NPG. Prior to the NPG being built it was rare to see people out on the sidewalk on Gateway or on the shoulder of Raliegh. When we ask people why they are out on the NPG, they say we feel safe, we are not in traffic. The saying "Build it and they will come" certainly rings true here!

It is wonderful that trails and active transportation corridors are being built in various areas of the city; but this is not enough. Many people have a need to go beyond their own local neighbourhoods and as others become more comfortable and more fit they too will want to travel further distances. **Trails, pathways and AT corridors must be connected** in such a way that anyone, young, old or differently abled can get around to attend to their daily activities or errands. Until such time as people feel truly safe out and about without their cars, you will not change the car culture that exists today. Creating a safe, effective active transportation system is simply the right thing to do. Its time has come. It's not to say that on road infrastucture is not important, but you will get a much better return for your dollar by connecting communities through active transportation, where people actually acknowledge each other creating a true sense of community. The existing local trails need to be connected to create one expansive system allowing anyone, regardless of age or ability to get around without the use of a motorized vehicle. Improvements such as lighting, safe bicycle parking and convenient access points are still needed. The opportunity to bulid healthy communities and minimize our environmental footprint is to great to pass up.

**Single occupant cars going from locked garages to big box stores on freeways do not build vibrant, healthy communities, mixed-use developments with pedestrian and cylist friendly corridors do**. You have been forward thinking in approving the cycling/pedestrian bridge adjacent to the Disreali Freeway and are now looking at zoning improvements in the Point Douglas area. More of the same is required. These are not short term solutions but are positive moves that will have an impact on improving the lives of your fellow citizens far into the future. **Put more funding into people friendly infrastructure and seize opportunities to make these improvements as they present themselves.**

Thank you.