August 30, 2022

Dear Mr. Dickson,

I am writing to express my support for the continuation of the neighbourhood greenway pilot project. I am the coordinator and a teacher in the Seven Oaks School Division Bicycle Education and Skills Training (BEST) program. The program has been in place since 2016 in Seven Oaks and has recently been expanded to St. James and Louis Riel divisions. The program was created in collaboration with Manitoba Public Insurance, the Green Action Centre, Bike Winnipeg, and the WRENCH community bike shop. We teach bike safety to enable our students to ride bicycles safely and confidently as a means of sustainable transportation. Currently, Seven Oaks School Division teaches every student in Grades 6-8 this program, well over 2000 kids each year.

The neighbourhood greenway streets are close to some of our schools: Seven Oaks Middle School, Edmund Partridge Community School, H.C Avery Middle School, Elwick Community School, and O.V. Jewitt School. When we teach the program, we ride the greenways, and we raise awareness to our students and their families about how much safer these routes can be for sustainable transportation in the community. As our program has grown, we have seen a large increase in student and staff commuting to and from school – these greenways have given us safer routes to learn about street cycling and to travel through our community.

Winnipeg needs a permanent network of safe routes through the city, especially in the northwest area, which is currently underserved. Please make the current routes permanent and continue adding to safe cycling infrastructure in Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

Peter Obendoerfer

Seven Oaks School Division BEST program Coordinator