

SUBMISSION – JEFFREY HODGINS

ITEM 2 OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS DATED JUNE 11, 2024, REGARDING PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDY – ROUTE 90 IMPROVEMENTS – TAYLOR AVENUE TO NESS AVENUE

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:50:19 AM

Personal information

Full name: Jeffrey Hodgins

Email address:

Phone:

Job title:

Organization:

Address:

City: Winnipeg

Province or territory: Manitoba

Postal code:

Delegation information

Committee: Council

Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations

Committee - other: N/A

Agenda item (number and title): Item No.2 Preliminary Design Study - Route 90 improvements - Taylor Avenue to Ness Avenue

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing

Participation preference: N/A

Comments in writing: To Mayor Gillingham and members of City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the report on the Preliminary Design Study for the Route 90 Improvements - specifically from Taylor Avenue to Ness Avenue and the proposed widening of Kenaston Boulevard.

The proposed widening of Kenaston is a guaranteed financial failure, and I believe that there is enough evidence that any further road expansion projects should be put on hold until our infrastructure deficit is addressed. This project would exist to only temporarily serve drivers in the area, shortening their commute time for only a short while until the very well known effect of INDUCED DEMAND will cause the road to be filled up with cars again to the point that the road would need to be widened again (by this logic). Therefore, it would be wasting millions of dollars that would be better spent so that already existing infrastructure (Arlington Bridge, pools, etc) could be maintained instead of being abandoned. In addition, the city should be prioritizing funding for transit, which is proven to actually reduce driving time by removing drivers off the road. To address current congestion, the city should consider far cheaper options like a truck only lane, or a congestion charge.

Mayor Gillingham, you pledged during your campaign that the widening of Kenaston would be justified only if a strong business case existed. Many experts have criticized the financial underpinnings of this report, suggesting that the business case is flimsy at best.

I urge you to consider the significant return on investment that reallocating these funds to the long-term transit master plan, and expanding the bike network. By directing resources toward these areas, we would promote active transportation by developing infrastructure for safe walking, biking, and other personal transport modes that are far cheaper than car-dependent infrastructure.

The City is already struggling to maintain its existing roadways as evidence to it's many potholes and infrastructure abandonment. Please do not continue the ever increasing infrastructure deficit within the city, and do not put our future generations in deeper debt than they already are. If the road and sewer is due for renewal, than there is an argument for repairing years of neglect on Kenaston. However, this does not justify taking on additional financial risk to needlessly expand the road. I would hope that further designs for Kenaston could see transit only lanes or separated bike infrastructure. With how much public opinion was asked for other projects within the city, I find it extremely concerning that this project has only one design that the city was willing to consider.

I urge you, Mayor Gillingham, and the members of the Council, to make wise investments that benefit all citizens. Please vote "nay" to this report and support projects that truly serve the community.

Thank you for your time.

File:

Public engagement preference: Yes