Submitted: Mon, 12/02/2024 - 20:30

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Executive Policy Committee

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Wellington Cres speed limit reduction motion (from report of Public Works committee November 29)

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
Dear members of EPC:

I'm writing to express fierce support for the motion to reduce the speed limit on Wellington Cres to 30km and to expedite protected bike infrastructure here as well.

I'm an Elmwood parent of 3, who has been involved with the push for 30km/h speed limits in Winnipeg for more than 5 years. During that time, I've been one of the coordinators of our "Love 30" lawn sign campaign, coordinating delivery of the lawn signs to folks throughout the city, and often delivering them myself.

Orders for signs come in from every part of the city, from older "grid" neighbourhoods to modern suburban ones. When I arrive to drop off a sign, almost inevitably, there are other homes in the immediate vicinity with Love 30 signs or the "Please Slow Down" signs from the Winnipeg Committee for Safety, homemade signs reminding people to watch for kids playing, or other signage related to slowing down.

It doesn't matter if the street is swooping or straight, has sidewalks or not, people are so worried about the speed of vehicles through their neighbourhood that they are moved to purchase a sign or create one of their own. They are clamouring for slower vehicle speeds through their neighbourhoods, where they and their loved ones walk, bike and play.

The fact is that lowering speed limits is just the first step in making safer streets for all of us. With lower speed limits, the risk of being seriously injured in a collision goes way down, but - and this is something that doesn't get as much attention - so too does the risk of having a collision in the first place.

As much as this issue is about protecting vulnerable road users, I think it's important to remember that it also protects drivers. No one wants to hit a pedestrian, bicyclist or another vehicle when they're behind the wheel.

The science of 30km/h is abundantly clear:

- It is safer. Much, much safer. The chance of surviving a collision with a motor vehicle traveling at 50 km/h is less than 20%; whereas, survival increases 90% at 30 km/h (World Health Organization. Global Status Report on Road Safety. 2018)
- It encourages more people to feel comfortable walking and biking, reducing wear and tear on our roads and helping to shift travel modes as set forth as a target in our Climate Action Plan.
- It is a powerful tool for reducing emissions – Yes, really! A systematic review of 40 cities that adopted 30km/h limits found an average decrease of 18%. (https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/11/4382)

Passing this motion sends a strong message that council is ready to rethink the culture of "speed above all else" in our city.

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes

Personal information

First name
Emma

Last name
Durand-Wood