Submitted: Mon, 12/02/2024 - 21:31

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Executive Policy Committee

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Speed Limit Reduction on Wellington Crescent

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
Hello Councilors and Mayor Gillingham,

The speed limit on Wellington Crescent should be reduced from 50km/h to 30km/h. This route is a critical East-West corridor for people who choose active transportation in our city but there is no protected bike infrastructure along this route which is an obvious gap in the active transit network that needs to be addressed immediately. Drivers tend to exceed the speed limit along Wellington, the wide design of this road encourages speeding, and since there is no infrastructure to create a safe space for bicycles, the excessive speed of motorists creates a chronic risk to cyclists using this road.

As someone who lives in Downtown Winnipeg and commutes primarily by bicycle year-round, the importance of safe streets is paramount. This means lower speed limits. Wellington Crescent is a route I often choose to use on recreational rides in the evening or on weekends but I avoid it when commuting to and from my job. During peak times of day when this route would be a convenience, I feel forced to take a much longer route instead simply because Wellington is not optimized to accommodate my vehicle of choice.

In the wake of the death of Rob Jenner, in June of 2024, the gravity of cycling along this route (Wellington Crescent) weighs heavily on my mind. It seems that the excessive speed of the car involved in this incident was a factor in the collision. There have been other collisions and injuries to cyclists along this road. How many more people need to die or be seriously injured before change is made? When I think about Rob and his wife Wendy and the family he left behind, it brings tears to my eyes. Sometimes when I'm saying goodbye and I love you to my partner in the morning, before getting on my bike, I wonder if it will be the last time; I wonder if I might be the next cyclist to die on Winnipeg.

A speed limit of 30km/h will create a safer, more comfortable environment for all users - pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and transit users. Vehicles traveling at 30 km/h are far less likely to cause collisions, fatalities, or serious injuries compared to those traveling at 50 km/h. Furthermore, setting a consistent speed of 30 km/hr along the full length of Wellington aligns with City of Winnipeg policies and goals in reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion, because more people would feel safe enough to choose active transportation instead of commuting by car.

Enhancing active transportation is a matter of equity. Everyone should feel safe going to and from work, or wherever they're going, no matter what vehicle they choose to use or where they live. The number one thing I hear from people when I tell them I commute year-round by bicycle in Winnipeg is concern for my safety. I understand the risks involved in cycling here. I understand that this is a limiting factor for many people's choice not to cycle or walk. I understand that some people will be upset about the reduced speed limit.

Thank you for all that you have done to advocate for and develop the active transportation network in Winnipeg. Much improvement has been made in recent years but there remains a long way to go in making our streets safe for all people. I urge you to pass this motion and reduce the speed limit along the entire length of Wellington Crescent and make our city streets safer and more equitable for everyone.

Sincerely,
Erik Brommell

Public engagement (optional)

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

Personal information

First name
Erik

Last name
Brommell