Letter of Opposition for the Delaying of the Wellington Crescent Bike Lane Pilot Project

Winnipeg Public Works – June 12, 2025

Dear Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

I want to first thank you for all the hard work you have done previously to make Winnipeg a safer city for vulnerable road users. While our cycling network is not complete, it's come a long way in recent years and that needs to be acknowledged.

It's now been over a year since the tragic death of Rob Jenner, who was killed cycling to work on Wellington Crescent. On this very stretch, just to the east of Cockburn, there's a green "bike route" sign. As a resident of River Heights who often bikes down this stretch of Wellington, I am often reminded of how dangerous this stretch of road can be. Ask anyone that has biked down this section of Wellington Crescent and they can probably tell you about a time they have been close passed by a 4,000 lb. vehicle, I certainly can.

On December 12, 2024, Council concurred that an interim solution be reported back to Public Works in 120 days. This was missing from the May meeting agenda, and now in June, it's being delayed again.

I think it is great that Public Works is looking at developing a bike lane pilot project on Wellington, it is necessary to protect human life, but why do we continue to delay these projects when time is of the essence to protect human life? At an absolute minimum, while we wait for safe biking infrastructure on Wellington Crescent, the speed limit should be temporarily reduced to 30km/h. There are empirically proven safety benefits of lower speed limits.

If we want to believe the green "bike route" sign on Wellington Crescent is representing itself in good faith, we need immediate change to this section of Wellington Crescent. I dread that someone else might die before real changes are made.

Thank you,
Corey Dyck