Councillors,

I'm writing to you today about a matter of urgent importance: the safety and future of my kids.

As I write this, they're heading out the door to ride their bikes to school. You've kindly provided them with Eugenie Street, which connects our home in Norwood with École Henri-Bergeron, where they attend school. But many other streets in Norwood and Norwood East still allow speeds that are simply unsafe for children and others who actively commute.

Many families I know choose to drive their children to school—not because they want to, but because our neighbourhood lacks safe routes. That is a failure of our built environment.

If you fast-tracked the bike lanes on Goulet and Marion, my children could ride to and from school on safe, separated infrastructure. If you lowered the speed limit on residential streets in our neighbourhood and across St. Boniface, it would make a real difference. It would keep our children safe—and let parents breathe a little easier.

The other day, I took my kids to Wellington Crescent to celebrate Rob Jenner's birthday. Sadly, his family wasn't able to celebrate it with him. Rob was killed by a driver. And yet, we wait another month for a report on bike lanes. I want to stay hopeful, but I'm skeptical the lanes will be built before winter.

We are in a crisis. Our province is literally on fire—and it's a direct result of our choices. The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to the emissions driving this disaster. Our system prioritizes the fast movement of cars (and doesn't even do that well) over people walking, rolling in a wheelchair, cycling, scooting, skateboarding, or taking transit.

I urge you to act now:

- Fast-track projects like the Wellington Crescent bikeway and the rest of the bike network.
- Lower the default residential speed limit to 30 km/h.
- Invest in transit.
- Cancel expansions like Route 90 and Chief Peguis Trail.

Our children can't afford the financial burden of these car-centric projects—and our climate can't absorb their emissions.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Ian Walker
Father, teacher, husband, friend, and School Trustee for Ward 1, Louis Riel School Division