I am writing today in opposition of further delays to the bike lane pilot project on Wellington Crescent. I strongly urge the city council to act with the sense of urgency that safer bike infrastructure warrants.

I implore you - try biking to work one day a month. I'm hoping that like me, you will appreciate trading the stale air and traffic jams for pleasant riverside views, singing birds, and fresh morning air. You will see the city through a completely different lens - more alive and human-scale, but also unfairly biased.

Infrastructure and design is what incentivizes good or dangerous driving behaviors: a speed limit sign doesn't prevent you from flooring it to 160 km/h, but a bollard or tree sure will. During your commute as a cyclist, the city makes it's message clear: you are not welcome here. Signs telling cyclists to dismount at every intersection, "share the road" signs on roads with no safe bike lane barriers, slip lanes and right on red that encourage quick turns over pedestrian & cyclist safety, and much more. It's no wonder why I'm treated as a daredevil for the insane stunt of... simply biking to work.

I am tired of being treated like my life is worth less based on my choice of transportation - I pay taxes just like everyone else here. There is no shortage of research showing the incredible ROI of better cyclist infrastructure: compared to road surfacing or widening, it is incredibly cheap and easy to rapidly deploy temporary concrete barriers for a new bike lane. From induced demand (safer cycling incentivizes trading car trips for bicycle trips), we often see bike lanes REDUCE traffic congestion in many cities - bikes simply take up a fraction of the road space compared to cars.

The fact that nothing has been done for an entire year since Rob Jenner was killed speaks volumes to the city council's negligence and disregard of cyclist safety. I urge everyone to try biking to work just once - maybe you will see our city in a new light.

Further reading on the subject:
- YouTube: "How To Build a Bike Lane that Breaks Records" - Oh The Urbanity!
- YouTube: "How to (Quickly) Build a Cycling City - Paris" - Not Just Bikes