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Personal information

First name
Tim

Last name
Fennell

Statement to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works
Regarding Agenda Items 8 (Transportation Master Plan) & 16 (Wellington Crescent)

Councillor Luke's. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Tim Fennell. I am a resident of River Heights, a father to two school-aged children, and a cancer survivor.

I am writing because I believe that safe, multi-modal accessibility in Winnipeg is an urgent human rights issue.

Whether for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, or motorists, safety for everyone must be achieved for Winnipeg to grow, improve our quality of life, and achieve equity for all citizens.

We all become pedestrians the moment we step out of our cars. All students have a right to safe passage to school. All patients, regardless of their income, have a right to travel safely to get the medical care they need.

The facts are alarming. In recent years, more people in Winnipeg have died from being struck by drivers than the total number of driver and passenger deaths combined. This is a profound inequity that demands major and swift action to reach our goal of Vision Zero.

Delayed action, like we have seen on Item 16, Wellington Crescent, is preventable and unacceptable. When unsafe conditions are identified, the response must be swift. Public Works should be empowered to implement temporary, low-cost safety measures autonomously, without unnecessary delay.

This brings me to Item 8, the Transportation Master Plan. I fully support the vision outlined in the plan. However, I am deeply concerned that it will fail without the political will and budget to match. Status quo politics and inadequate funding will ensure Winnipeg falls dangerously short of its goals.

I urge every member of this committee to advocate for significantly greater budget allocations

to achieve our transportation safety and equity goals. I ask you to consider the urgency of this for the well-being of all Winnipeggers, today and in the future.

Investments in transportation safety benefit everyone: our students, patients, seniors, those living in poverty, our workers, and even tourists.

Winnipeg has an opportunity to set an example—to transform itself from a car-dependent city into a city that builds for people first.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tim Fennell
River Heights - Winnipeg