

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

It has come to our attention that, once again, a standing commitee of council has ignored the recommendation of its own administration and made the decision to scuttle the proposed bike lane pilot project on Wellington Crescent.

Instead, the Public Works Committee has announced that the department will build a permanent bike lane, despite feedback from 2700 respondents urging them to do a pilot to ensure its success.

Ignoring the advice of the public service – a service composed of men and women with years of experience and expertise - is bad enough. Ignoring the feedback of 2700 citizens should be a matter of serious concern for all Winnipeggers.

The fact that councillors on the Public Works Committee seem to be more concerned with preserving road space and car convenience over preserving trees and testing the best approach to guarantee the safety of cyclists is a matter of even greater concern.

Why is the city risking the loss of valuable mature trees on one of Winnipeg's most iconic residential streets, in direct opposition to its canopy expansion target and one million trees commitment?

Would residents and park goers not be better served by pre-tested and thoughtfully planned bike lanes that offer kids and families a shaded and safe route of access?

We believe they would be, and we would therefore urge the city to listen to its public service, reverse the decision made by the Public Works Committee, and proceed this summer as planned with the temporary, pilot project bike lanes on Wellington Crescent.

Sincerely

Trees Please Winnipeg