

Rachelle Niemela

From: Rachelle Niemela [rmniemela@hotmail.com]
Sent: June 23, 2014 12:14 PM
To: 'andre.rivest@greatersudbury.ca'; 'claud.berthiaume@greatersudbury.ca'; 'dave.kilgour@greatersudbury.ca'; 'doug.craig@greatersudbury.ca'; 'evelyn.dutrisac@greatersudbury.ca'; 'frances.caldarelli@greatersudbury.ca'; 'jacques.barbeau@greatersudbury.ca'; 'joscelyne.landry-altmann@greatersudbury.ca'; 'mayor@greatersudbury.ca'; 'ron.dupuis@greatersudbury.ca'; 'terry.kett@greatersudbury.ca'
Cc: 'JoeCimino@ontariondp.ca'; 'France Gelinis'; 'Tony Cecutti'; 'David Shelsted'
Subject: Safe cycling in Sudbury

I would like to bring to your attention the video in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KBoQAt3kSA> (Please excuse the language – the cyclist who was following the woman who was forced off the road was obviously upset). This video was taken this weekend on MR 35 between Azilda and Chelmsford.

The behaviour of the truck driver notwithstanding, one of the big problems is that there is no paved shoulder on this stretch of road. There is only a 4-6" strip of rough and cracked pavement on the road. Cyclists therefore have no other safe alternative but to use the road. Like this road, many of our roads that connect our neighbourhoods (Azilda, Chelmsford, Valley East, Garson, Falconbridge, Coniston, Lively and more) do not have safe ways for cyclists to travel to and from those neighbourhoods.

Cyclists have been asking the City for a number of years to retrofit these major roads so they are safe for cyclist travel. The current City process is to wait until a portion of a road is due for reconstruction, and then we (maybe) retrofit it. Case in point, there is construction happening on MR 80 this year, with no provision for cycling infrastructure. The Lasalle/Notre Dame reconstruction also did not include safe cycling options.

In 2010, we asked that 3% of the roads budget be dedicated to building these safe cycling routes. When this did not happen, we modified our request and brought that down to 1% (approx. \$380,000) in the hopes that we would at least have some movement forward. Just lately, the City suggested that \$400,000 out of the proposed development fee increases would go to an item it called "Active Transportation". With those fees being frozen, cyclists do not know what will happen.

We can't look at the development of cycling infrastructure as an "add-on" to our budget. It needs to be part of the budget, and we need to clearly identify targets and goals for the completion of whole routes that link our neighbourhoods. These targets need to be part of our short-term and long-range roads capital infrastructure projects – for example, we should see a line item there called "Connect Valley East to the Sudbury core" as a distinct cycling infrastructure project with approved costs that would retrofit the whole stretch of MR 80 from Lasalle Boulevard to Hanmer.

The City's current proposed Active Transportation Network (ATN) shows that we need major improvements, but the target date on completion is 2031. We have also missed two years now of budget allocations for priority cycling development because most requests for cycling infrastructure have been met with the comments "the Master Transportation Plan will take care of this." However, the Transportation Study has now been delayed for more than a year and half.

We need to do better. We need to plan on retrofitting all of our major connector roads so we have safe alternatives for cycling. We need to provide safe cycling options for major city core roads like Lasalle, Paris, etc. where large trucks and other vehicles pass too closely or cut cyclists off.

My understanding is that there will be another public input session on the Transportation Study sometime during the summer. To those of you may be re-elected to Council, I would ask that you seriously consider the recommendations

that have previously been submitted by many cycling groups about the priority infrastructure required for cycling. We will not doubt submit them again when the final report is released.

We can't wait until a cyclist is killed before we do something.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Niemela
Chair, Sudbury Cyclists Union