

Distributed at the Planning and Development Council Meeting of August 6, 2019
Re: Item 3 - Lakeshore Road West Class Environmental Assessment Update

Planning and Development Council Meeting

August 06, 2019 - 7 p.m.

Agenda Item #3 – Lakeshore Road West Class Environmental Assessment Update

This is my first time making a presentation to a committee of Council and I am here because this issue is very important to me. I would like to make three points with respect to the second recommendation, that staff undertake a Scenic Corridor Study for Lakeshore Road West.

- First, I feel that the direction to staff should be expanded to indicate that **Scenic Corridor Study should include recognition that Lakeshore Road West is on the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail**, which is an existing scenic trail with provincial level importance that should have continuous cycling infrastructure. It is not possible for cyclists to enjoy the scenic aspects of the trail with the current roadway design and the condition of the paved shoulder as your total focus is on your safety. I have cycled most parts of the Waterfront Trail from Pickering to Grimsby and Oakville has the worst infrastructure along the entire route.
- Second, staff should be instructed to **balance the Scenic Corridor Study with the Town's Active Transportation Master Plan**, which planned for a bike lane from Third Line to Dorval. The Master Plan states that relatively high walkability and bikeability scores in downtown Oakville do not translate into higher numbers of trips due to the lack of infrastructure. In simple words, more people don't cycle in this area because there are no access routes into the downtown with adequately protected bike lanes. They feel it's too dangerous to be on the roads. This project provides the opportunity for the very first safe cycle route into downtown.
- Third, staff should be asked to **place a high priority on the safety of vulnerable road users in the scenic design elements that they recommend**. The Town should be committed to a goal of zero collisions with vulnerable road users. Most collisions could be prevented by better planning and design. You should not have to be an expert cyclist to enjoy this scenic route; families should be able to enjoy it as well. For example, an eastbound cyclist on Rebecca Street, arriving at Fourth Line where the bicycle path ends, is directed by road signs onto Lakeshore Road, which, however, also lacks safe cycling infrastructure. I can only conclude that the Town prefers collisions to occur on Lakeshore Road instead of Rebecca Street. Staff should place priority on high quality, separated and continuous infrastructure that will keep road users of all ages and abilities safe.

Council and staff should recognize that the rebuilding of Lakeshore Road West is a once in a generation opportunity to fix these problems.

With thanks

Mark Verlinden