

January 15, 2014

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Item #	22
Report No.	1 (CW)
Council - January 28/14	

To: The Honorable Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and members of Council,

Re: January 14, 2014 Committee of the Whole, Report No 1, Item 8, Deputation from Mr. Paolo Calaminici with respect to a bike lane on Peter Rupert Avenue

This letter is to respectfully express our disappointment with Council's proposal on January 14, 2014 to defer the implementation of two bike lanes on Napa Valley Avenue and Peter Rupert Avenue.

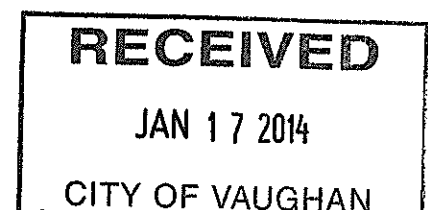
The Vaughan Bicycle User Group (BUG) is a Community Organization that was formed on January 2nd of this year resulting from the City of Vaughan's Cycling Forum held in 2013. Our mission is to promote cycling as a viable and sustainable transportation alternative in Vaughan, unite Vaughan cyclists under one voice, encourage safe cycling, organize family cycling events and raise cycling awareness in the community. The Vaughan BUG is currently regrouping 25 households (more than 50 members including children) and our numbers are growing. Several members do cycle to work or to shop; favourite destinations are GO stations, Steeles Avenue and various grocery stores. Others cycle for recreation with their family to parks, community centres and sports fields. All would like to make their cycling safer.

We feel that any progress in Vaughan's biking infrastructure is a pedal stroke in the right direction. We have applauded improvements on Dufferin Street and Jane Street, the installation of bike route signs in several locations and the addition of bike parking facilities in some City owned buildings. The proposed Napa Valley Avenue and Peter Rupert Avenue bike lanes are two key components of the Approved 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master plan. Cyclists have been waiting for these routes implementation for several years. Bike lanes contribute to cyclists safety, particularly on congested streets such as Peter Rupert Avenue. Although not completely segregated, they provide some visual sense of safety to cyclists and alert drivers to cyclists space.

We believe that Vaughan's commitment to a greener transportation and recreation is genuine. We understand that some delays in the implementation of the Approved 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master plan, especially with more costly items, are sometimes unavoidable. However, we are concerned that when deputations such as Mr. Paolo Calaminici's on January 14 point to a traffic congestion problem, the bicycle lanes will become the automatic scapegoat.

Several studies have concluded that one solution to traffic congestion problems is to encourage people to leave their cars at home and ride their bike. In this regard, removing bike lanes or delaying their implementation is more likely to be counter-productive in easing traffic congestion.

We wish to reiterate that our goal is to obtain safer conditions for cycling commuters and families and that bike lanes do mean added safety for us. Let's pedal together on this.



Respectfully,

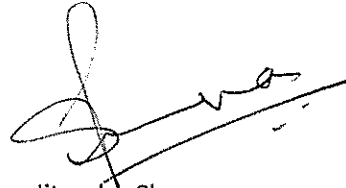


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