

October 8 2024

1:00 pm

Good afternoon. I am Glenda Morris. I live at 8 Fair Avenue Lindsay. Thank you for this opportunity to address a public safety concern in our community.

## **The Good News - and the Challenge**

My deputation begins with a good news story. The Lindsay community has experienced a wonderful trend since the pandemic: a dramatic increase in bicycle ridership. We see students going to school, shoppers with their bags, families enjoying rides together. This shift towards active transportation benefits our community's health and environment. However it has inadvertently created safety concerns on our sidewalks.

**Purpose** I am here today to request that Council enact a bylaw clarifying permitted uses for sidewalks, supported by an educational campaign about rules and responsibilities. This initiative would enhance safety for all sidewalk users while continuing to encourage cycling in our community.

I will cover the current situation, impact on community, proposed solution, implementation and benefits, enforcement concerns and impacts on cycling, timeliness, the request, and conclusion.

### **Current situation:**

- We have witnessed multiple collisions and near-misses between pedestrians and cyclists on sidewalks
- Existing regulations are imprecise, creating confusion
- The situation affects our most vulnerable residents: seniors, children, and those with mobility challenges

### **Impact on community:**

- Unsafe sidewalks discourage walking, particularly for seniors and families
- As Lindsay grows, this issue will only become more pressing
- Our reputation as a livable, safe community is at stake

### **Proposed solution:**

- A locally developed bylaw addressing Lindsay's specific needs
- Created with input from key stakeholders: police, City's accessibility officer, Health Unit, cycling clubs, schools, seniors advocates, Business Improvement Association, Chamber of Commerce

### **Implementation:**

- Focus on education over punishment
- Positive promotional campaign highlighting safety benefits
- Clear guidelines for various types of transportation

### **Benefits:**

1. Enhanced safety for all sidewalk users
2. Clear expectations for cyclists and pedestrians
3. Proactive approach to managing emerging micro-transportation options

4. Demonstrates Council's commitment to public safety
5. Demonstrates Council's commitment active transportation

### **Addressing Concerns:**

#### **Enforcement challenges -**

- Primary focus on education, not penalties
- Similar to successful seatbelt, bicycle helmet and speed limit campaigns
- Every effort toward compliance makes a difference

#### **Impact on cycling -**

- Goal is to promote safe cycling, not restrict it
- Will recommend alternative solutions for areas where road cycling is unsafe

### **Why Act Now?**

1. Lindsay's growing population demands proactive safety measures
2. Opportunity to establish guidelines before the adoption of new transportation technologies
3. Demonstrates our commitment to being a forward-thinking, safety-conscious community that promotes active transportation

### **Request**

I respectfully request that Council:

1. Direct staff to develop a bylaw clarifying sidewalk usage
2. Ensure stakeholder consultation in the development process
3. Allocate resources for an educational campaign

### **Conclusion**

By acting now, Council can ensure that Lindsay remains a safe, accessible community for all residents, while supporting our growing cycling culture. This balanced approach will enhance our reputation as a livable city that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all its citizens.