



SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL FORM

ABOUT PERSON/GROUP PRESENTING

First Name: **Stephen**

Last Name: **Mott**

Name of Organization/Group (where applicable): [Click here to enter text.](#)

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If you do **NOT** wish to have your personal information (address, phone number, email) become part of the public record, please check this box.

ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION

Topic of Submission: **Bicycle lanes**

Purpose for Submission (what is the ask of Council): Respectfully, consider supporting changes to traffic patterns to incorporate bicycle lanes in Saint John

Executive Summary: I am writing to express my support in introducing bicycle lanes in Saint John.

For a number of years I was a resident of Ottawa, which was when I started biking. The biggest factor in my decision to start biking was that Ottawa is an exceptionally bicycle-friendly city, with dedicated bike lanes in the city and surrounding paved bike lanes through green park space. Initially I intended to bike to and from school and to run errands; however, I started to go on longer rides to explore the city and its different neighbourhoods. These longer rides were undoubtedly good for my physical health, but truly restorative to my mental health. It is remarkable not only how I could pedal to hitherto unknown places and communities but also how calm and reassured I would feel when I returned home. My sense of safety was never far from my mind, and it was bolstered by the city's incredible cycling lane infrastructure.

In spite of growing up in Saint John, I am a relatively novice cyclist in our city. The biggest reason why I was hesitant to bike in Saint John was the lack of a visible cycling community, which is particularly accentuated in the urban core where I reside. I made the decision to get out there this spring when so many businesses were shut down in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic and when my need for self care was growing. I kitted my ride with bright lights, a loud bell and wearing bright yellow, I hit the streets of Saint John. In the reduced vehicle traffic I gained more confidence, and eventually biked to and from my redeployment on the west side. Now I go for a couple rides every week—not breaking any



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land speed records—but getting out and appreciating more and more where we live.

Dedicated bike lanes are an invitation to residents of Saint John, and more often than not, an invitation is what it takes for engagement. Bike lanes mean accessibility, and importantly, they are a physical presence in the collective consciousness of the community. Motorists see the bike lane, then they see cyclists: residents (young and old) see the bike lanes, then they start cycling. Bike lanes remove barriers.

I beseech you and members of council to support the addition of bicycle lanes to our fair city.

Sincerely Yours,
Stephen Mott

YOUR SIGNATURE

Signature: **Stephen Mott**

Date: **2020-10-20**

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Date Received: [Click here to enter a date.](#) Council Meeting Date: [Click here to enter a](#)
