

**Re: Input sought on Speedvale** (July 2). I was shocked to read Mayor Guthrie's misleading and polarizing blog for several reasons:

1. The Speedvale road diet option is not a bikes vs. cars issue as the Mayor would have everyone believe and nobody is "creating forced driving discomfort" – except for car drivers themselves who impose marginal costs on each other. And I am one of them.
2. The road diet design simply and efficiently re-balances the street. By maintaining uniform vehicular speed and reducing weaving, the road diet increases safety and comfort for all users of all ages -- be they drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, seniors, children or those with disabilities. The middle turning lane can be used as a designated emergency service route when required and for transit cue-jumping (if transit ever comes to Speedvale).
3. City staff spent two days – not two years – consulting the public. The city's website was never updated after the April 2014 open house. They kept all financial information confidential until late May 2015 and did not post it to the city's website until last week – only when I twice requested that they do so.
4. Our normally fiscally conservative Mayor didn't mention that the Speedvale road diet will cost \$5 million less than staff's \$13 million recommendation – and will increase property values, too. About \$1.5 million of the savings can be used for a comprehensive Transportation Demand Management program which helps businesses provide carpooling, guaranteed ride home services, parking cash out, bike/walk buddies, staggered work times and telework options so their employees aren't stuck in traffic at rush hour. The balance of \$3.5 million can be used for other pressing transportation needs in the city.

Future oriented citizens are requesting a Speedvale road diet be tested for a year to see if drivers will (1) share 25% of the existing street with other users and (2) allow residents to keep the front of their properties. Hopefully council and the public will agree to this fair request.

**Martin Collier, MES (PI.)**