

My name is Martin Collier. I am a transportation planner working to achieve sustainable transportation in Ontario since 1992.

We'll hear a lot of fear today from many politicians, staff and delegations. They will tell us that Guelph's world will come crashing down if drivers share one-quarter Speedvale Avenue with seniors, children, disabled or those who don't want to drive or have the means to drive. The fear mongers, who are concerned about losing a few minutes at rush hour, don't mind spending an extra \$5 million. They don't feel any empathy for their fellow residents who live with the traffic on Speedvale and will lose 5 to 16 feet of their property frontages.

I'm fairly certain that the majority of IDE Committee members will accept staff's recommendation to build the least pleasant, highest cost, most traffic inducing, most property expropriating road possible. With this in mind, I'm not going to reiterate everything I've said about the road diet pilot project in this council chamber, in the papers and on social media (see <http://www.martincollier.ca/news.html>). Rather, I thought I'd quote what other politicians, experts, authors, philosophers and members of the public are saying -- or have said:

Steven Del Duca, Ontario's Minister of Transportation, July 3, 2015¹:

- *"We know that cycling generates a broad range of economic, environmental, health, social and other benefits which helps build healthy, more active and prosperous communities. I look forward to seeing the benefits of our \$25 million investment as, together with our municipal and community partners, we create a more cycling-friendly Ontario."*

Dr. Preston Schiller, Planning Professor, Queen's University² :

- *"I am troubled by the over-reach of the engineering profession when it comes to that basically human phenomenon known as traffic; an area that can be influenced by the physical but involves numerous factors best addressed by the social sciences. This field is much too complex for any one profession, and decision making needs to be shared with planners, public policy experts, elected*

¹ <http://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2015/07/applications-for-funding-to-promote-cycling-now-open.html>

² http://www.academia.edu/12341937/Getting_Outside_the_Box_of_the_Automobile

officials, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, economists and the public—especially those who have been traditionally neglected; those who walk, bicycle, have mobility issues, use transit and want safe streets for children and the elderly.”

Norris McDonald, Wheels Editor, Toronto Star, July 3, 2015³:

- *“It’s time to stop the talking, the debating and the arguing and to do something daring. It’s time for every municipality in the GTA, within reason, to create bike lanes on every street and road... Some will argue there aren’t enough cyclists to go to the expense and the bother. I say if there are segregated bike lanes that make cycling safer, more people will cycle.”*

Cameron Shelley, Letter to Guelph Tribune, July 7, 2015:

- *“As noted by Charles Marohn in “Confessions of a recovering Engineer”, engineers are trained to design roadways to maximize speed, volume, safety and cost (in that order). Marohn recommends instead safety, cost, traffic volume and speed, in that order.”⁴*

H. G. Wells, author of The Time Machine and The War of the Worlds (late 1800s)

- *“Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.”⁵*

Arthur Shopenhauer, German philosopher, (1788-1860)

- *“All truth passes through three stages: first it is ridiculed, second it is violently opposed, third it is accepted as being self-evident.”*

Testing a road diet for one year will enable us to reach the truth on whether a safer, inexpensive and slightly slower Speedvale is a better design than staff’s recommendation.

Please dare to make a road diet decision based on hope. Not fear.

Thank you.

³ <http://www.thestar.com/autos/2015/07/03/its-time-bike-lanes-were-installed-everywhere.html>

⁴ <http://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2010/11/22/confessions-of-a-recovering-engineer.html>

⁵ http://www.gurudictionary.com/quotes/authors/h/h._g._wells/171900.htm