



# Bike Ottawa

Citizens for safe cycling since 1984

**To:** City of Ottawa

**Attn:**

Councillor Brockington (by email)

Councillor Egli (by email)

**Cc:**

Vivi Chi (by email)

Suzanne Woo (by email)

Kornel Mucsi (by email)

**Date:** 5 November, 2018

**Subject:** Fisher and Baseline intersection – Fisher and Malibu intersection – Fisher bike lanes

Dear councillors Brockington and Egli,

Over the last year, there have been a number of positive changes for cycling in City View/Fisher Heights and Courtland Park/Rideau View:

- First there are the current improvements to solve missing links in the Nepean Trail at Merivale and further north behind Movati and Emerald Plaza;
- Second, we saw the completion of a reconfigured Dynes Rd, including much improved protected (Dutch style) intersections on both ends and bike lanes in both directions;
- Third, there has been a shave-and-pave on Fisher north of Baseline towards Carling, which greatly improved the road surface for cycling, too.

These are all great improvements in an area that desperately needs cycling friendly infrastructure. The three projects tie in together very well for residents, but there is a large missing link: Fisher Ave!

Unfortunately, the different initiatives don't take into consideration the larger picture of safe cycling through the city; they are stand-alone segments executed by different departments. The new bike infrastructure does not connect properly and doesn't yet increase the chance that more people will start cycling in the area south of the Farm.

We'd like to share three issues, which, if addressed, could greatly improve connectivity in this area, making it more attractive for residents to choose a bike for some trips. To create a safe cycling space in the Fisher – Baseline area and continued safe cycling connections to the Farm pathways and the Trillium Pathway, we would like to ask councillors Egli and Brockington to lead on improving the following:

1. **A gap on Fisher:** Once leaving Dynes, going north on Fisher, there is no safe connection to the Fisher bike lanes north of Baseline: bike lanes are missing on this busy stretch of Fisher.

**Proposed solution:** Reconfigure Fisher north of Meadowlands to add bike lanes on Fisher Ave between Meadowlands and Baseline, preferably with a double striped line with hatch markings, such as on Grant Carman. The recently added pavement to accommodate temporary traffic can be used for this.

2. **Crossing Baseline on Fisher:** After crossing Baseline NB, cyclists have to position themselves on Fisher Ave between two lanes of traffic. This short stretch has sharrows now, but we would like to see a proper bike lane in this area. The many suggestions for improvement we shared were not implemented as it was a shave and pave and a sidewalk repair only; road reconfiguration was not part of the project, unfortunately.

**Proposed solution:** A green Thermoplast lane on Fisher north of Baseline, connecting to the newly implemented bike lane on Fisher past the bus stop to clearly indicate a cycling space here.

3. **Crossing Fisher on Malibu:** As the Nepean Trail on Farlane ends at the T-intersection of Farlane and Baseline, there is no safe continuation in either direction along Baseline to Merivale or Fisher. This will not be safe until the Baseline Rapid Transit bus corridor is finished. Therefore, cyclists seeking to reach Fisher and beyond should travel through Fisher Heights using Malibu, the street that arrives closest to the Fisher and Baseline intersection. As Fisher (a route in the Ottawa Cycling Plan) has grown busier with traffic from Ottawa's south end, it is now difficult to safely cross Fisher at Malibu. This is also a very unsafe intersection for pedestrians who need to take the NB Bus 86 or get off the bus and need to walk WB onto Malibu.

**Proposed solution:** Create a refuge on Fisher at Malibu, to allow a two-step crossing for cyclists and pedestrians (similar to a refuge on Colonel By at Carleton U.);

Lastly, we'd also like to point out the unsafe concept of two lanes merging following intersections on Fisher. There is often a race between drivers to be in the left (continuing) lane first before the right lane ends. The cyclist is at danger at this stretch as he/she is sandwiched between two lanes of car traffic.

We hope that the City of Ottawa can implement these suggestions, as it has little impact on current motorised traffic flows, greatly improves safety for cycling and walking and cost very little money.

With kind regards,

Bike Ottawa  
Citizens for Safe Cycling since 1984