



Bike Ottawa

Citizens for safe cycling since 1984

Ms. Vivi Chi
Director, Transportation Planning
City of Ottawa
vivi.chi@ottawa.ca

Subject: Retention of Holland Avenue Bike Lanes

Dear Ms. Chi,

I am writing on behalf of Bike Ottawa to request that the bike lanes on Holland Avenue between Kenilworth and Tyndall Avenues be retained on a permanent basis. While these lanes were installed as a temporary detour during the installation of the Harmer Avenue Bridge replacement, we believe that these lanes have become an important part of the cycling network, their retention is supported by the policies of the Transportation Master Plan, and will support the policy directions of the Transportation Master Plan Update.

To begin, I would like to note that the Holland Avenue bike lanes have proven to be popular with cyclists in the area. A heatmap provided by Strava, a GPS app that is popular with people on bikes - shows that compared to other streets in the area, despite the lack of connecting cycling infrastructure, this section of Holland is well used, and appears to compare favourably with other cycling links such as Byron Avenue and Sherwood Drive, and plays an important role in connecting north-south routes from the Experimental Farm and Fisher Avenue to Tunney's Pasture, as well as east-west cycling along Sherwood Drive, Byron Avenue and Wellington Street West. Given the role that Holland Avenue plays in directly connecting several cycling routes and destinations, we believe that these bike lanes play a complementary role to the Harmer Avenue Bridge.

Secondly, the retention of bike lanes on Holland Avenue is supported by the city's transportation policies. Specifically, the 2013 Cycling Plan identifies Holland Avenue as a spine cycling route. Further, the directions set out for the Transportation Master Plan Update identifies a target of 50 percent of all trips being completed with active transportation. With such an ambitious goal, and the city's declaration of a climate emergency, cycling infrastructure that allows for comfortable, safe cycling by all ages is critical to responding to these challenges.

Given the importance of these lanes in providing a safer cycling experience, Bike Ottawa supports the City of Ottawa retaining these lanes and exploring how they could be improved and extended to make for safe cycling connections with other cycling routes.

Regards,

Érinn Cunningham
Board of Directors, Bike Ottawa

Cc: Jeff Leiper, Councillor, Ward 15