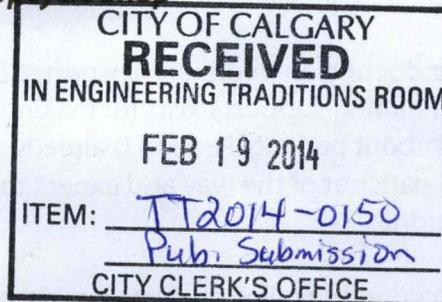


City of Calgary
SPC on Transportation and Transit
800 McLeod Trail SE
Calgary, AB
T2P 3L9



February 19, 2014

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I was asked by the Inglewood BRZ to make a presentation in favour of the 1st Street SE cycle track for two reasons. The first reason is because I am a retail business owner on 9th Avenue in Inglewood that is directly affected by traffic in downtown Calgary. The second reason is that I bicycle as my primary mode of transportation around Calgary. Although I do own a car I rarely drive it. I have been cycling year round throughout the city for about 12 years now. In addition to these reasons, my shop will be offering bicycles for rent from April through September. Additional cycle tracks will certainly affect my business.

I am aware of the fact that I am an anomaly and that it is not particularly common for middle aged women to cycle year round as their main form of transportation, especially hauling children in tow. But I can tell you that many of my friends and customers also enjoy cycling but are deterred from using this mode regularly because they are afraid to share the road with dangerous vehicle traffic. Adding safe cycle paths throughout the downtown core would increase bicycle traffic of all kinds exponentially. People, families included, will finally be able to venture off the pathways downtown to the museum, theatre, restaurants, cafes and shops in relative safety. With 1st Street being such a busy corridor and a direct link from the Bow pathway to the Elbow it makes sense to make this the next cycle project after success with the 7th Street track.

I have heard some concerns that lost parking would damage business or that vehicle traffic would become more congested. Studies from around North America, that have implemented safe cycle tracks, have shown this not to be true. In every case:

- an increase in bicycle traffic was created
- there was an increase in retail and restaurant sales
- there was an improvement in travel time as less vehicles were on the road
- speeding vehicles decreased
- crashes and accident related injury decreased
- there were fewer commercial vacancies
- there were more local shoppers
- there were lower emissions

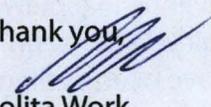
In addition to all of these benefits, studies have also shown that people travelling on bicycles spend more money, visit more often and enjoy better health.

Along with my letter, I have the attached PDFs of 4 studies as an appendix, one of which was done in Calgary. The Calgary study showed that only 32% of trips into downtown were made in vehicles. The rest included walking, bicycling and transit. Clearly, vehicle traffic is no longer the main mode of transport. Bicycling should be made available as a safe transportation alternative for anyone to enjoy.

I have been conducting an informal transportation survey of my customers over that past month. Overwhelming support exists for making cycling and walking safer. Most that did drive were not concerned about parking. Parking is already only available at a premium and many that visit my neighborhood park out of the way and expect to walk. About 60% said they would ride a bike if it was a safer option.

As a business owner that relies on customer traffic to my store, I strongly support cycle track implementation and look forward to seeing it extended throughout downtown Calgary and into Inglewood.

Thank you,



Solita Work
Owner, Reworks Upcycle Shop Ltd.
403-263-4366
solitawork@gmail.com