



Councillor Browaty
City of Winnipeg

December 14, 2018

Dear Mr. Browaty;

If it looks like most people who ride bikes in Winnipeg during the winter are hard core cyclists, this is a consequence of the lack of snow clearing on bike routes. Many patches of ice and mounds of snow in critical places on the bike lanes create unsafe conditions for anyone but the strongest cyclist.

If Winnipeg's bike routes were well maintained, more people could choose to travel by bike in the winter, in the same way that building a well separated bike lane attracts more ordinary people to travel by bike.

Winter cities that do a good job of keeping their bike lanes cleared have found that a broad cross section of people will bike through the winter.

- In Calgary, the city sweeps major bike lanes as a priority, so that hundreds of people who are willing to ride their bikes don't have to commute by car on snowy days and add to congestion when there is the least room on the road.
- In Oulo, Finland, a large city near the Arctic Circle, even elderly ladies do their errands by bicycle in the winter, because they feel safe on a well maintained system of bike routes.

Encouraging more people to travel by bike is advantageous for the city as personal motor vehicles are the most expensive mode of transport for city infrastructure budgets. That is why many cities encourage people to shift their mode of transport from car to walking, cycling or transit.

As a councillor who has expressed concern for the sustainability of the City's finances, you know the disproportionate size of capital and operating budgets for road transport, and how that is a function of the number of vehicles in town, particularly at peak times. Encouraging people to ride bikes instead of using their motor vehicles reduces the growth of that demand in the long run.

Rest assured; we are not suggesting that you should change your preferences, leave your vehicle in the garage and ride a bicycle through the year. We do ask, however, that you set aside your personal preferences when it comes to making transportation decisions, and act on basis of the economic interests of the city, by giving Winnipeggers the option of traveling by bike year-around.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Feaver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Charles Feaver
Bike Winnipeg

Cc: City councillors, media