

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

FROM: Councillor Blanch

DATE: January 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Bicycle Lanes

I have been approached by several members of the Amherst community and one member of the Sackville community expressing their concerns with the use of sharrows (bike stencils) in the on street portion of our Active Transportation Plan. The sentiment expressed is that the stencils don't provide, or clearly identify, an actual space for bikes to operate. This lack of clarity leaves bike users and their parents feeling unsafe and therefore unwilling to engage in Active Bicycle Transportation.

It is not the removal of the sharrow that is requested but the addition of a painted line to clarify bike space vs car space. In the planning discussions leading up to the implementation of the plan we discussed solid lines vs dotted lines and I understood we decided in a desire to not hamper on street parking that we would only include dotted lines in the AT Plan. Somehow the plan was approved without any lines (I didn't realize at the time) and it is this I hope to change.

I propose that council direct staff prepare a report addressing the feasibility of adding dotted lines, in addition to the sharrows, to demarcate bike space, on the streets that are wide enough to accommodate. I believe from earlier discussions at the planning stage that potential streets would be East Victoria and Willow from High School to Spring. I would be open to having staff propose how the addition of dotted lines could be introduced incrementally, as a sort of pilot project, to guard against unforeseen consequences.

MOTION

I move that staff prepare a brief report outlining the feasibility of introducing dotted bike lanes on some Amherst streets in the summer of 2019, with the possibility of adding more in future, to add security to the biking public.