

# Building an Accessible Community

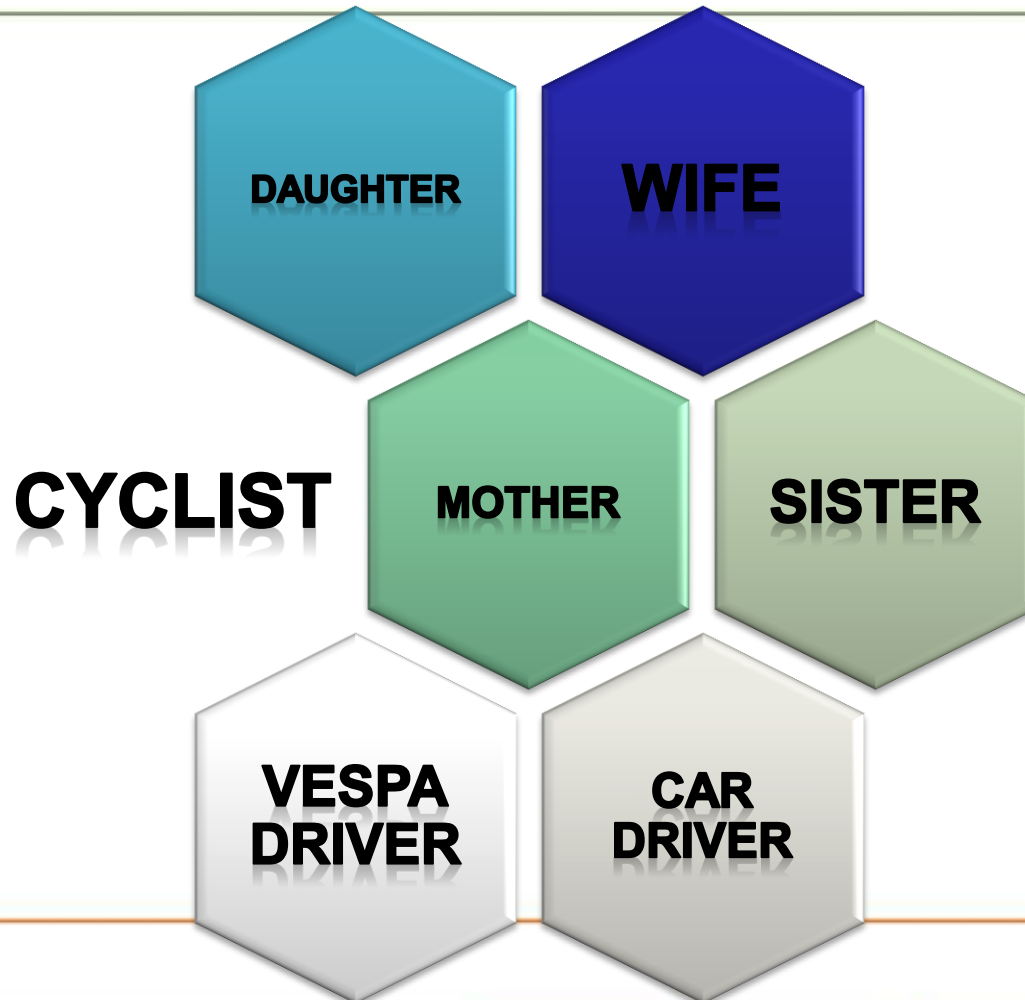


Annotated History of Bicycles in the City of  
Waterloo:1880 to Present

**Councillor Diane Freeman**  
**P.Eng., FEC**

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# Who am I? Who are We?



**TAP**

# Barriers to Accessibility

## OLD INFRASTRUCTURE

- not safe to cross road
- traffic management/ safety issues
- high speed, high # of collisions, no cycling facilities
- 2006 fatality
- pavement exceeded structural life.



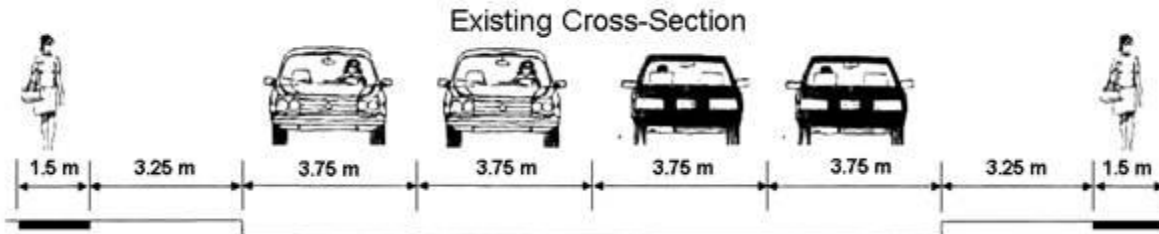
# Barriers to Accessibility

- there will always be people who won't agree with the plan
- coordination between City and stakeholders/partners can overcome constraints
- Extensive public engagement will manage concerns of reasonable members of community
- Truly a Complete Street: Squirrel was actually seen using the pedestrian islands to cross road safely



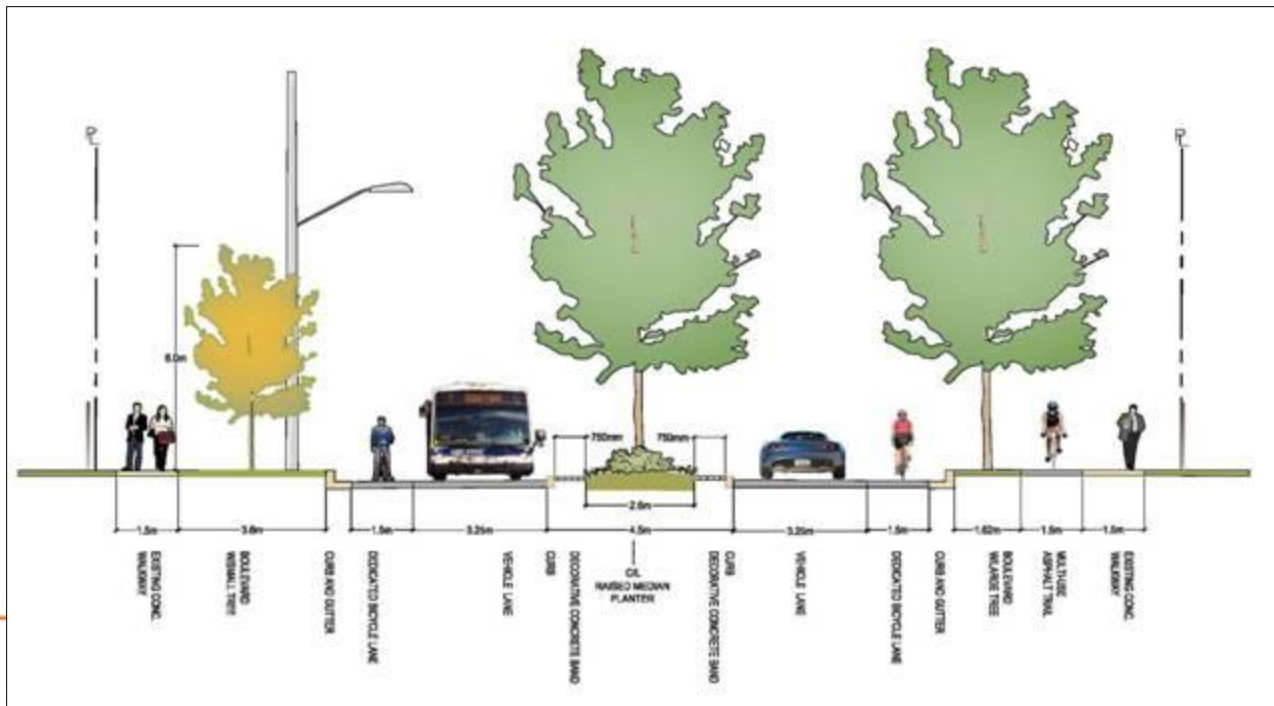


# A Divided Community = Reduced Quality of Life



# The Opportunity for Accessibility

- design of Davenport was aligned with a complete streets approach
- Reduce from 4 lanes of Traffic to 2 with on street bike lanes and traffic islands



# The Opportunity



- Plan, Design, Operate & Maintain a street **for ALL users**
- Provides citizens with transportation choices with goal to reduce % growth in car trips, alleviate pressure on the road network, deferring or removing need to widen roads or intersections.
- Waterloo could save approx. \$30M in road and intersection expansion over next 20 years



# The Opportunity



- Enhance intersections added bicycle lanes to other road, add a roundabout
- Improve facilities for transit users
- Installed bike box and bicycle lay-bys
- Add medians and improve boulevards
- Reduce asphalt with landscaped islands
- increase area of stormwater infiltration, reduce road salt usage





# The Opportunity

- FCM Sustainability Award

<http://Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Sustainable Communities Award>



# Challenges to Opportunity

Emergency response:	landscaped medians divided to allow vehicle travel on other side of island if required – Mountable curb
Parks & Environment operations vehicles	Median breaks allow operations crews to park in safe zones and work away from live, moving traffic - reinforced concrete ends and sides



# Challenges to Opportunity



<p>Winter maintenance operations</p>	<p>Travel lane width allows single pass of a snow Plow Durable-paint pavement markings used to reduce annual maintenance</p>
<p>Location spacing of existing private or commercial driveways</p>	<p>Design vehicle for roundabout was a 53ft articulated truck</p>



# Embracing the Opportunity



- Political Support of Advocates
- Conversation around the importance of Accessibility
- Political Courage
- Financial incentive – doing more with less
- Cost of Real estate for Roads



# Personal Motivation for Change

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- Opportunity for Bike Friendly Communities Program
  - National Bike Summit in Washington DC
  - “Walk the talk”
  - Health
  - Preventable Motor Vehicle Collision
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# Influencing Change

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- Move Positioning from Recreation to Commuting Options
  - Talk about it
  - Live it
  - Stay the Course
  - Plan for the Future
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# Lasting Change



- Approve POLICY to ENSURE change is lasting
- Embed Policy in Official Plans
- Embed Policy in Street Designs
- Ensure Policy in place to divert AT Traffic during construction



# Embracing the Opportunity



*“Just a quick note to say congratulations on the recent Sustainability Award for the Davenport Road re-development. Diane – this was your campaign promise when I first met you at my front door before your first successful City Council election and you came through on that promise. This road, which is literally in the backyard of my home, has been vastly improved in safety, functionality, aesthetically and environmentally – the award video also mentioned economic savings for maintenance – what a success story.”*





# Embracing the Opportunity

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*“I attended the well publicized and well attended opening ceremonies for the portion of Davenport that was completed last summer. There were lots of plaudits to go around and much was said about the new aesthetics and functionality of the new design.*

*I was a skeptic, but I was converted”*

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# Thank You

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