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Jagmeet Singh, MPP
Bramalea-Gore-Malton

August 9, 2014

Dear Minister Del Duca,

I am writing to you on behalf of a constituent concerning cyclist safety and accessibility when crossing the bridges over Highway 410, the highway dividing the city of Brampton. None of the bridges accommodate cyclists in a safe and secure way. Currently cyclists have three options when crossing the bridges:

1. Join motorised traffic in the roadway
2. Ride their bikes on the sidewalk
3. Dismount and walk their bikes across the bridge using the sidewalk.

None of these options are reasonable solutions and highly discourage cycling as a mode of transportation for residents of a city divided by a 400 series highway.

The government of Ontario has a goal of making Ontario the best province for cycling by 2033. CycleOn, Ontario's Cycling Strategy states

“Infrastructure should support increased cycling as a convenient method of daily transportation, not just cycling as physical activity for health or recreation. This involves identifying and responding to local needs. It could include, for example, removing structural barriers to cycling by building a bridge over a busy highway connecting two cycling routes.”

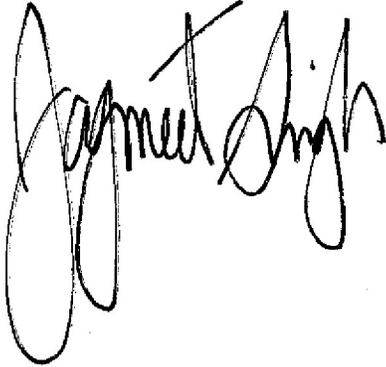
In Brampton, the bridges already exist. The safety and accessibility infrastructure needs to be implemented to encourage the potential cyclist.

As identified in the CycleOn strategy, safety is one of the top barriers that prevent a potential cyclist from cycling as a mode of transportation. The bridge on Bovaird Drive has been specifically identified as unsafe and inaccessible not only to cyclists, but pedestrians and those using mobility devices.

How is the Ministry addressing the issue of accessibility and safety for cyclist crossing bridges over the 400 series Highway, specifically bridges in Brampton and the Bovaird Dr. bridge? What is the time line for the Ministry's plan? Of the 2720 bridges in Ontario, how many of them accommodate cyclists with a bike path or bike lane?

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at jsingh-co@ndp.on.ca or 905.799.3939.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jagmeet" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Singh".

Jagmeet Singh, MPP
Bramalea-Gore-Malton