

2024 11 13 Committee of Council AT Delegation – Jasdeep Singh Bhattal

Good morning, Chair Brar, Council, Staff and the Public.

First of all, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Jasdeep Singh Bhattal, a retired Civil Engineer with 37 years of professional engineering experience from India, and an active biker since 8. In India, having a bike in those days was like an SUV of the present era. I have had permanent resident status since 2015.

I'm proud of my City of Brampton for providing active transportation for safe biking. I'm comfortable commuting the length and breadth of the city due to these good bike lanes and well-maintained creeks. I'm also able to commute to Caledon and Mississauga. I hope the city will continue with its Active Transportation policies.

The restricting of construction of biking infrastructure on the pretext of mere numbers by the Provincial Government is not justified, since the bikers help in the improvement of the environment and the reduction of carbon emission levels as committed by the Government of Canada targets for 2030 and zero emission by 2050.

Governments are even coming out with cycling policies worldwide. The new pan-European Master Plan across 54 countries in Europe and North America proposes doubling the cycling level by 2030. In India too, Chandigarh has come out with a draft cycling policy in 2021, encouraging employees with incentives to cycle to work daily, and envisages an increase in biking lanes.

As my friends have appealed, I would also request that the City of Brampton provide support for more biking infrastructure and oppose Bill 212.

Thanks. Good wishes.