

July 6, 2025

Subject: We need your assistance!!

Good day,

My name is Darlene Collings, and I am a very long time citizen of Medicine Hat, here in the sunny southeastern Alberta. We citizens need the assistance of you and your office. My apologies if this email is long.

I am reaching out to you today after noticing an article that stated you and Calgary Mayor Gyondek will be having a discussion about Calgary bike lanes.

Unfortunately, as is often the case here in our tightly controlled Canadian news environment, the article was gone before I could really delve into it, but I believe in the article you were quoted as saying something to the effect that Calgary was increasing, or widening bike lanes, to the detriment of the flow of vehicle traffic.

We, here in the Hat, have recently become blindingly aware of a similar project, with similar results, that being dangerously reduced driving lanes, with extraordinarily wide walking and biking pathways(they are not simply bike lanes), which the city now calls "alternative transportation options".

Back when the current City Council adopted the Transportation Master Plan, or TMP, the full extent of this couldn't really be imagined. It is difficult to ascertain the full scope of something that is written, and not clearly defined at that, even with PowerPoint slides of someone's interpretation. But now that some of the Plan has been completed and can be witnessed and experienced, it is clear that this part of the plan at lease, is disastrous.

When the downtown area was worked on, it created a slight issue with less parking, much to the chagrin of downtown businesses, however most of our downtown has one way streets, thus emergency vehicles, etc. could still easily get through if needed.

Late last year the city completed another part of the TMP, and that was on a fairly major access road for the residents of our Southwest and Southeast Hill area, Division Avenue. There was originally roughly the equivalent of 3.5 driving lanes across from curb to curb, with a small expanse of grass and a normal width sidewalk. This is what I would consider a "normal" inner city artery design, with enough room for easy access onto and off of Division Avenue from the cross streets. With the changes they made last year and are completing this year, the driving lanes have been reduced to almost exactly the width of 2 lanes from curb to curb, with absolutely no shoulder at all. If an emergency vehicle needs to go through there and any traffic whatsoever was there, it wouldn't be possible. In addition to that, they have created "bump outs" on some of the side streets, thereby creating a hard 90 degree corner, making it nearly

impossible to turn right either direction onto Division Avenue from a side road without having to put the front of your vehicle across the center line. Unless you have a small car, this is not an exaggeration. In fact I watched a half ton truck with a small Trailer try to turn right onto Division Avenue and he had to wait until there was no vehicles on any of the corners, because he had to swing far out into the opposing lane to complete his turn without driving well up and over the curb.

The city has called this "Traffic Calming Measures".

In short(although too late for that), this City Council is actively pursuing narrowing our actual traffic flow and access, while greatly widening these so called alternative transportation flow and traffic.

The next 2 areas that we believe are targeted for this same mess are in an area called Riverside, which will greatly affect the flow on that access artery, and then Kingsway Avenue, and this one is a major artery with many businesses and a large flow of traffic.

We are hoping that you would be able to come and see this and help the citizens with a way forward. Currently we have 700 signatures opposing this, although it is not a petition so the City Clerk wouldn't accept it to provide to City Council. The City Council is holding a non-statutory public hearing on Monday, July 7th, at which time I plan to provide the 700 signatures in hopes that then it will be on record.

There has been 90 submissions sent to the city for this hearing, with 84 against the plan and only 4 in support. Residents will also be signing up to speak at the meeting, which I anticipate many will.

I have included Medicine Hat's 2 MLA's in this email in the hopes that they may look into this issue as well.

Thank you for the possibility of speaking to you on this subject. In addition to speaking up as a citizen, I am also a Board Member of the Medicine Hat Utilities Ratepayers Association, an Alberta non profit Association that has progressed from "utilities" to "United", as we move forward into a "watchdog style association " for our citizens.

Darlene Collings