From: Steve Snyder
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Lukes, Janice; Dobson, Shawn; Gilroy, Cindy; Sharma, Devi (Councillor)
Cc: CLK-CityClerks
Subject: Item 11 at the Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Committee

Good Morning Councillors of the IR & PW committee,

I am writing this to you in the hopes that a different recommendation could be looked into for the proposed "improvements" to Ness at Mount Royal.

I believe the best method for reducing incidents on Ness Avenue would be to do a 4-3 conversion of the undivided portion (from Moorgate to Setter). Below I have added links to studies regarding street conversions from 4-lane to 3-lane (with the centre lane being a turning lane), but I will outline the results here.

Quick facts: they are safer for drivers (reduce the number of accidents by between 20%-50%), they reduce the operating/running speed of the road segment (reduce the severity of incidents that do occur), increase the opportunity for bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and are cheaper than the "improvement" that was recommended. All of this while only having a marginal impact on traffic flow (reducing throughput by 5%-10%).

While I acknowledge the fact that this does decrease traffic flow, street design is always about tradeoffs. And I for one would prefer the City choose a less dangerous, less costly street design over adding additional lanes just to save a few automobile commuters a few seconds a day.

These facts should be enough to show that this is the best solution for Ness avenue to become a better, safer, and more pedestrian friendly street. All while reducing the overall cost of maintaining the street.

City Clerk, please add this as communication to the committee on the official minutes.

Cheers, and thanks for your time,
Steve Snyder

Links to various studies:
United States Federal Highway Admin study --
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/10053/index.cfm
Deleware Planning Commission study -- http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/08055.pdf
Another from the US FHWA --
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/humanfac/04082/index.cfm