

Leiper/McKenney

WHEREAS a bicyclist was killed in the painted bike lane on Laurier Avenue outside City Hall on Thursday May 16, 2019; and,

WHEREAS this fatality occurred nine days after a bicyclist was catastrophically injured on Parkdale Avenue; and,

WHEREAS this most recent death occurred five months after bicyclist Jenfung Wu was killed on the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway; and,

WHEREAS approximately two cyclists and nearly six pedestrians are killed each year on Ottawa's streets, and dozens more injured, many severely; and,

WHEREAS there is ample evidence of the infrastructure interventions that municipalities can implement to reduce or eliminate road deaths and serious injury in the event of collisions; and,

WHEREAS no road deaths or catastrophic injury are acceptable; and

WHEREAS dedicated, segregated cycling infrastructure is critical to protecting the lives of cyclists; and,

WHEREAS dedicated, segregated cycling infrastructure is key to achieving the modal share targets asserted in the Transportation Master Plan; and,

WHEREAS the current design of much of Ottawa's cycling network provides insufficient segregation, and is too often disconnected with unprotected gaps that diminish the utility of the entire network; and,

WHEREAS the federal government has recently announced a one-time increase to municipalities' share of the gas tax that in Ottawa will result in an additional \$57 million to be spent on infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS staff have undertaken to review the City's cycling infrastructure to identify the improvements necessary to eliminate unsafe cycling infrastructure;

WHEREAS Council has recently referred the matter of the one-time federal gas tax infrastructure transfer to FEDCO;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council recommend to FEDCO placing the highest priority in its decision-making that the one-time federal gas tax infrastructure transfer be held by the City as a reserve dedicated to cycling infrastructure improvements to accelerate projects identified in the Transportation Master Plan and any projects identified by staff in the review now underway addressing unsafe cycling infrastructure.