

From: 613 Update // Parkways for People talk@socialmotion.ca
Subject: This is How to Flatten the Hills on the Gatineau Park Parkways
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To: Concerned Citizens test@socialmotion.ca



Feedback, suggestions? Hit [Reply](#) to let us know.

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1. Parkways for People: Exciting News for the Gatineau Park Parkways in 2022

The [NCC plans for Gatineau Park in 2022](#) have just come out, and we're thrilled to see the Park and its parkways becoming more accessible to everyone.

New this year will be a **free shuttle bus running on summer weekends**. The Park is open to active users throughout the week, including exclusively on four days, and we're excited with the NCC making **e-bikes available for rent to flatten those hills** and bring out a whole new set of users. As well, free four-wheeled electric mobility scooters are available for people with reduced mobility.

Those who prefer travelling by **car have Wednesday, Saturday and Sundays afternoons** to enjoy the Park.

While we'll keep pushing to see a car-free future for the Gatineau Park parkways, along with smaller electric shuttle buses and a mobile bistro at Champlain Lookout, this is a **strong step forward for 2022**. Well done, NCC.



2. Word on the Street

- **Construction of bike infrastructure** is beginning on the Canal **Bank St Bridge** and around **Nicholas/Laurier/Waller** addressing two important missing links.
- **eBikes are on the rise**; let's **upgrade our trails** to accommodate them.
- Meet **Fran the Can**, the rumoured offspring of **Joel le Pole**.
- Regrettably, neither the **federal government's budget** nor its **2030 Emissions Reduction Plan** does much for active transportation or e-bike rebates.
- Colorado is adopting the "**Idaho Stop**" for cyclists.

- The City says they are reluctant to use temporary curbs on bike lanes due to road damage, but **do pins actually cause much damage?**
- With all the proposed development, it's time to **accelerate transit plans for Carling Ave.**
- **Free transit, not lower cost transit**, is what we need to get people out of cars. Ottawa City Council agreed to **study possible options for free transit.**
- What **Quebec City and Montreal** can teach us about **pedestrian-friendly streets.**
- **Slow down streets** to make downtown more attractive to live, work and play.
- Wondering about the **impact of open streets on mental and physical health?** This **8 80 Cities webinar** on April 19 looks at the experience of New York City, Bogota, San Jose, Paris and Guadalajara.



3. This Week's Big Idea: The Official Plan Has It Right; But When Will We Follow It?

Ottawa is spending \$70m to revitalise Montreal Rd, from the Rideau River to St Laurent. New sewers, full streetscaping, bike lanes. Sounds great, but the photo above is not a "before" image; **it's the "after" of the street between Rideau River and Vanier Parkway. The bike lanes on Montreal Road only start east of Vanier Parkway.**

City staff have said that we need four lanes to maintain traffic flow (and parking, it turns out), although current rush hour traffic patterns would suggest otherwise. This is an unfortunate decision, as Montreal Rd could connect seamlessly to bike

infrastructure along the Rideau River and the Cummings Bridge.

Furthermore, it's contrary to Ottawa's new Official Plan (4.1.1.3.d): "When capacity and flow functions are identified for a street, the priority is to ensure a high-quality public realm that maintains the safety of vulnerable users and the capacity and flow of public transit and sustainable modes in priority over general traffic."

Does this look like we are protecting vulnerable users? Removing one lane of parking could be a pretty easy fix.



4. Stand Up For Something

The federal government wants to hear your thoughts on the **Alexandra Bridge replacement project**. Submit [comments](#) until April 24.

The City is redoing the intersection at **Bank St and Hunt Club Rd**, and is holding a [public information session](#) on April 21. See [sketches](#) for what look like westbound bike lanes but possible slip lanes for cars.

The [Better South Keys Centre](#) community group is planning a **spring walk and talk** on [April 23](#) to discuss what redevelopment of South Keys Centre could be, and how it could emerge as a regional hub for south Ottawa.

The City of Ottawa is looking for feedback on **traffic calming on Broadview Ave around the local schools**. Complete the City's [survey](#), until April 29. [School Streets Ottawa](#) discusses how Broadview could become a School Street.

For anyone looking for a **social bike ride around Ottawa**, **#ottbikesocial** will be out **every Thursday evening starting at 7pm from different departure points**.



SOCIAL MOTION PROJECT

About

The 613 Update sets out to connect, narrate and amplify the voices thinking big for a more active Ottawa. It also serves as a regular briefing for the Parkways for People initiative. It normally comes out on Thursdays. See back issues and [subscribe here](#).

613 Update is maintained by the [Social Motion Project](#), an initiative to build sustainable and healthy communities, by helping change makers achieve more in the active transportation and recreation space.

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