

FORT ROUGE – EAST FORT GARRY WARD

Jenny GERBASI-

“Active transportation is a very high priority for me. I have and will continue to strongly activate for better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in our city including more parking protected and separated lanes, more connectivity and addressing the gaps in the AT network. I believe we need more investment as well as better planning based on a sound strategy.

I also support reducing speeds in school zones as a first step but would like to see speed reductions and traffic calming on a larger scale over time. I am very supportive of the development of Active School Travel Engineering Plans (ASTEP) that commit to encouraging walking and cycling in every school division by making walking and cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable and fun for all ages and abilities. We are currently beginning such a project with schools in the Fort Garry area in partnership with U of M and Green Action Centre.”

Norm MILLER –

“I cannot make concrete commitments since none of the candidates know what the city budget really looks like, but the city has spent a lot of money in the last few years on ‘wants’ vs ‘needs’. Bike paths fall into the ‘wants’ category whereas frozen pipes are more of a ‘need’ considering they are only used for 9 months of the year. After getting in a bike accident years ago, I lost my interest in it and although we all want to see a ‘safer environment’, we have to really define what that means.

Parents currently drive their kids to school. If they are then confident in their child’s ability to get there by walking or biking, then that is their choice. I would love to see a shift back to that again. I am definitely in favour of children under 18 wearing a bike helmet and if we could afford bike paths after the water pipe issues, then I am also in favour of biking. “

Shane NESTRUCK -

“I think many issues can be solved at the same time with the same CHANGES in how we deal with traffic and pedestrian issues in this city.

SPEED of vehicular traffic and SPACE on the roads are two things that create danger for our bicyclists and pedestrians when crossing streets:

So I will promote:

- a 40kmph speed limit on ALL side streets.

- the installation of those LARGE Speed-HUMPS that make going over 30 KMPH impossible in all school zones
- i.e children 'hang around' schools 24/7 not just on school days during school hours
- We cannot count on police surveillance to stop speeders... the 'humps' work 24/7
- in many areas of town ONE WAY STREETS (AS DONE IN MANY CITIES) make MORE ROOM for bicyclists and are thus MUCH safer
- One Way streets also remove the oncoming traffic game of 'chicken' that creates huge safety problems for bicyclists.
- One way streets also improve all sorts of traffic problems and even help with snow removal.

So:

- Residential/ side-street speed limit of 40 kmph
- speed humps in school zones (and where requested by residents!)
- One-way streets (especially in 'grid' areas of town)

BUT: I will also promote FAR BETTER BIKE SAFETY LAWS:

As a lifetime bicyclist, who still bicycles every day (except in winter) I have found MY PERSONAL safety is improved immensely by wearing a very bright safety vest.... If seen MOST drivers give bicyclists careful attention.

THUS I will promote a "WEAR YOUR SAFETY VEST" campaign in which all the wonderful bright, 'neon coloured' bicycle shirts and vests along with the extremely inexpensive safety vests are explained as 'LAWFUL' and all other clothing is characterized as suicidal.

I also like to have a law that makes driving a bike after dark without such apparel and without serious lights as a finable offence.

As a City Councillor, I see it as a PRIORITY to CHANGE the culture and habits on the roads of our city."