



August 3, 2025

Dear Councillors,

HRM Council is at a **crucial turning point**. On Tuesday you have to decide whether to give into provincial bullying or to **stand your ground**. Sometimes it seems like giving a bully what they demand feels safer, but whether on the school playground or across the border, the same lesson plays out – give in to a bully and they just come back for more – because you have revealed your weakness. A decision to backtrack would cement the false narrative that this is an ineffective, indecisive Council.

You need to show Premier Houston that every time he erodes your legitimate jurisdiction, he is in for a fight. Only then may he hesitate to do it again and again.

You also need to remind staff who they report to – you, through the CAO. Whether intimidated by the Premier's threats or of their own volition, in their report on Morris St. staff are already **obeying in advance**. The fact that they are going even further by re-opening the debate on University is deeply troubling. It makes us wonder **who is lobbying whom** and why they have this outsize influence.

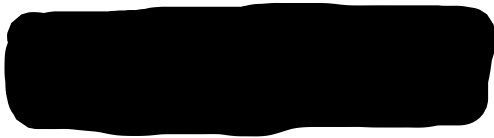
We urge you **in the strongest terms to reject the staff recommendation in its entirety**. Reaffirm the plan that Council has approved twice. The plan that is based on years of design work by experts, consultation with stakeholders, and extensive public engagement. The plan that cost taxpayers a few hundred thousand dollars and will cost even more to redesign. Alternatives will be less direct, less optimally located and therefore used less. Alternative designs that provide safe, legal crossings will cost considerably more for half or full signals. In other words, **less value for more money**.

Don't obey in advance. Don't do the premier's dirty work for him. Stay the course.



If you should rescind your decision on Morris St, it will leave us (and the majority of Haligonians who favour bike lanes, from HRM's 2024 survey) very confused about who is making arbitrary decisions that jeopardize peoples' lives. If you stay the course and the premier carries out his threat, the perpetrator will be clear. **You can be sure that Halifax Cycling Coalition, with our allies, will be exploring our legal options.**

Respectfully,



David Trueman,

Co-chair, Halifax Cycling Coalition