



NEWS RELEASE

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BIKE-LANE GUIDE WINNING OVER COUNCIL CANDIDATES

EDMONTON—As council candidates increase their door-knocking efforts for the upcoming October election, Paths for People has created a bike-lane guide that is already swaying some to support the lanes.

Payman Parseyan, a candidate in Ward 9, has switched his once anti-lane stance to one that is more supportive, after Paths for People provided him with its guide. The group will share the guide with all other council candidates this week.

“I was struggling to offer concrete reasons to support bike lanes when people raised questions about them at the door,” Parseyan said. “Because I am relatively new to bike lanes I was less knowledgeable about their positive effects. This bike-lane guide spells out five strong reasons that the lanes are good for drivers, create economic benefits and help save taxpayers money — all things voters in my ward are concerned with.”

Paths for People is releasing the guide to candidates on the fifth anniversary of the death of Isaak Kornelsen. On August 27, 2012, Kornelsen was riding his bike on Whyte Avenue when he was struck and killed by a driver. His death, and many other cyclist deaths, have inspired councillors, cyclists and motorists to push for better infrastructure for Edmonton's exploding cycling and active mobility commuters.

Parseyan's support of bike lanes also comes as Edmonton is set to officially open the first section of its protected bike grid downtown, on Saturday, August 26.

Anna Ho, co-executive director of Paths for People, said offering candidates research about the very real benefits of bike lanes is an important tool for the coming election.

“The downtown bike grid has produced far less negative feedback than many expected, but some lingering myths about it remain,” Ho said. “What this guide does is show candidates the research that demonstrates that bike lanes can make downtown streets flow faster in the long run, while increasing safety for everyone, drivers included, and saving money in unexpected places. Really, these lanes are a win for everyone.”

For more information, photos or interviews, contact:

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**REPORT:**

The Bike Lane Guide - Five Reasons You Want Them can be download [here](#).

The Five Reasons Bike Lanes are a Win for Edmonton:

- Drivers prefer them
- They up the pace yet keep it safe
- Money money money
- They reduce injuries by 90 percent
- They are magic medicine

ABOUT:

Paths for People is a non-profit organization of volunteers committed to strengthening the voices of Edmontonians in support of creating a walkable and bikeable city. The group collaborates with city planners to make the way we move through the city safe, enjoyable and sustainable. It does this by encouraging opportunities to utilize public space as shared space.