

Let's Not Miss Our Opportunity to Close the Gap at Pembina

This Wednesday, Winnipegger's will have the opportunity to review three options being proposed for improvements to the Pembina Highway Underpass (at Jubilee). Only one of the proposed options meets the minimum requirements for active transportation. Only option 3 includes the long promised pathway to safely carry cyclists and pedestrians over Pembina Highway.

If you have ever tried to bike from Earl Grey to the BDI on Jubilee, for example, or from Lord Roberts or Fort Garry to the Corydon Strip or Grant Park Shopping Mall, you will know that while short in distance, the need to cross Pembina is a major hurdle that discourages many from making these trips on their bicycle.

What difference would the inclusion of this pathway make? For the "interested but concerned" cyclist, it means a lot. These potential cyclists will not choose a high traffic roadway like the Jubilee Overpass. For these cyclists, the lack of a safe, convenient, and separated pathway across Pembina will mean choosing their car over their bike for trips that cross Pembina.

The good news is that there is an opportunity for the public to have their say early enough in the planning process to ensure that the Pembina Gap is closed. Everyone who uses this key traffic exchange, especially those who would like to travel this way by bike or on foot, should come out to the open house this Wednesday at the APEGN office just north of the underpass, write your City councillor, call your MLA, and submit comments to the city web-site.

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/MajorProjects/PembinaHighwayUnderpass/default.asp>

Mark Cohoe
Bike to the Future