

Wellington Cycling Initiative

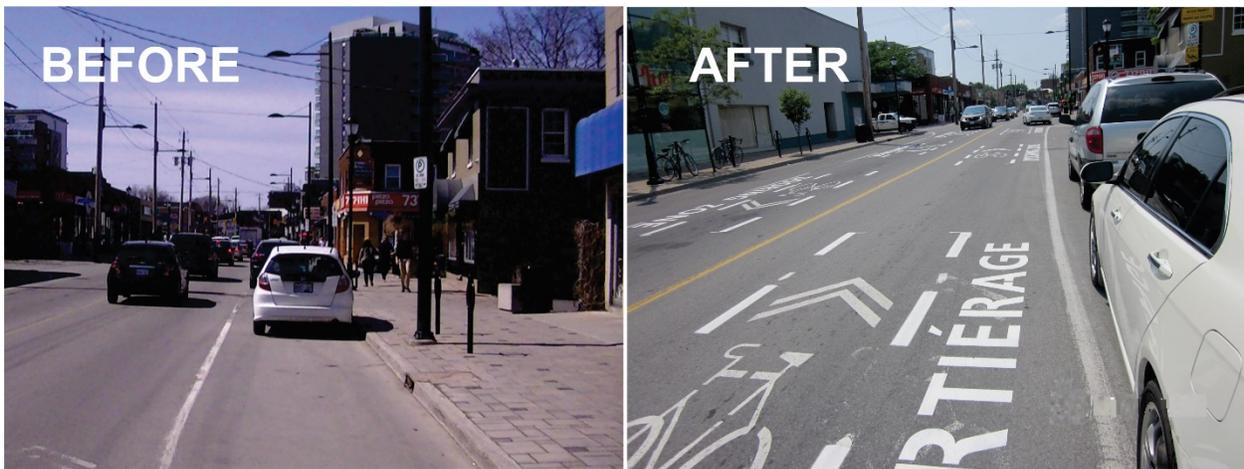
In 2015, the City of Ottawa undertook a new cycling initiative along Wellington Street between Parkdale and Holland. The area had long been identified as a “choke point” for both people on bikes and those who drive.

After discussions with the Ward Councillor, local residents and members of the community who cycle, the City’s Traffic Services Service Area, devised a temporary plan to:

- Raise awareness around the purpose of sharrows.
- help reduce the number of dooring incidents (involving cyclists),
- increase the number of cyclists who take the lane in this narrow channel and
- reduce the number of unsafe passes by vehicle drivers.

The final initiative which included multiple intercept surveys with road users on Wellington and extensive video analysis comprised of the following enhancements:

- the installation of “Watch for Bikes” signs
- the painting of the “dooring zone” wording along the road
- enhanced bike symbols on the road



Detailed video analysis was undertaken before, during and after the installation of the signs and road markings. The analysis focused on the behaviour of cyclists, drivers going through the corridor as well drivers who parked their cars and how they interacted with cyclists.

The results demonstrated a marked improvement when it came to residents cycling more than a meter away from parked cars, cyclists taking the lane, more drivers waiting behind cyclists (vs. overtaking) and fewer incidents of close passes (less than 1 metre) of cyclists on the road.

	Before Project start	After 12 months
% of cyclists passing more than a 1m from parked cars	20%	50%
% of cyclists passing within 1m of parked cars	80%	50%
Drivers following cyclists vs. overtaking	40%	70%
Vehicles passing cyclists with oncoming vehicles	47%	8%

For more information on the Cycling Safety Improvement Program, please contact Shawn McGuire, Coordinator Cycling and Pedestrian Safety.