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Coalition asks transportation committee to consider toll roads

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By [Jen McIntosh](#)

Trevor Haché, representing the Healthy Transportation Coalition, wants to see the city study the feasibility of introducing toll roads.

At a transportation committee meeting on Dec. 2, Haché said he wants the city to put more money into the cycling network and said the money could come from cancelling the widening of the Airport Parkway, increasing parking fees and instituting user fees for roads.

Councillors on the committee seemed skeptical of the idea.

"Would you be willing to pay user fees for cycling?" asked Cumberland Coun. Stephen Blais.

Committee chairman Keith Egli said this council has spent an unprecedented amount on pedestrian pathways and bike paths – this winter will see an additional 20 kilometres of bike paths cleared. The committee approved the transportation committee's \$331-million portion of the city budget at the Dec. 3 meeting. It included \$65 million in integrated road works, \$75,000 for school crossing guards and \$2 million in sidewalk and curb rehabilitation.

On the other side of the coin from the Healthy Transportation Coalition, Dale Harley and Perry Crozier of the National Capital Heavy Construction Association asked the committee to consider more spending on roads.

Harley has appeared before every committee during the budget process. He says nearly half the city's roads are in poor condition.

Blais asked Harley if he was honest with his membership about where the money would come from, adding more road dollars at this stage would mean a higher tax bill.

"Are you asking your membership if they're willing to foot the bill?" he asked.

Barrhaven Coun. Jan Harder asked Crozier and Harley if they are advocating just as strongly at other levels of government.

"I would encourage you to get out during the province's budget," she said.

Council will debate the budget as a whole on Dec. 9.