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The Wellington-X Success Story:
How I Helped a Grassroots Organization Influence Municipal Planning

Part of my research documents the activism work of civil society among three unique Ontario municipalities, including Kingston. This case illuminates on some of the struggles of a local grassroots organization, Wellington-X (WLX) that is trying to conserve nature, promote social justice, educate the public, and ultimately change municipal planning policy to help transform their community into a more social-ecologically resilient one. This is a story of my small part in helping WLX to achieve its primary goal of stopping a contentious road development project, the Wellington Street Extension (WSE). As a fringe WLX member I conducted participatory action mixed methods research, including document and media content analyses, surveys, interviews, workshops, and a City Council delegation. My work will contribute to the field of transportation master planning (TMP) through the lens of ecosystem services (ES) and social-ecological resilience (SER), by showing that responsible transportation systems based around passive/active design can maintain and perhaps enhance locally-specific ES that are of benefit to the people, plants, and animals in the Kingston area. The alternative of traditional “car-centric” transportation infrastructure proposals will keep us on an unsustainable path towards irreversible climate change impacts, marginalized citizens, and diminished natural heritage systems.

Thursday, November 28th, 2019
2:30pm – 3:30pm
Biosciences 1102