Dear Councillor/Trustee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Or] Dear Mayor Jondek

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. [Ward # or community].

Why don’t kids walk to school? It’s not kids these days, it’s streets these days. Our communities are built for the efficient movement of cars - and that means that Calgary kids are inside and in the back seat a lot. These choices have a real impact on health, climate change, finances, and social connection. Rethinking our streets by building safe routes to school could change that, and bring a whole host of other benefits too:

* Lower emissions (37% of greenhouse gas emissions in Calgary are from transportation)
* Child safety and freedom of movement
* Better health (hours spent driving is correlated to obesity)
* Better concentration, grades and stress management
* Social connection from programs like walking and biking school buses
* 62% decrease in personal daily emissions for every car trip avoided

I care about safe school streets because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

For these reasons, I would like to support funding and building safe school streets in Calgary by using different strategies such as:

1. **School Streets** - close roads temporarily to cars from Monday - Friday at the start and end of the school day. School Streets create a safe environment for kids to walk or bike to school and improves school air quality.
2. **Play Street** - close a low-traffic road for a couple of hours every day to let children play freely.
3. **Woonerfs** - streets for socializing, play and travel. People walking and wheeling have priority and vehicles are guests in the space. All modes operate at low speeds.
4. **Complete Streets** - streets built to accommodate and separate all modes of travel. May include sidewalks, bike lanes, vehicles lanes, bus lanes and space for activities like sitting, playing, dining, performing and commerce.
5. **Continuous sidewalks** - stays level across driveways and intersections for people walking or wheeling. vehicles must go up and over, slowing traffic.
6. **Raised/protected intersections** - the entire intersection is at sidewalk level. This slows traffic and signals to drivers that they are ‘guests’.

Thank you for your time,

*Your name/signature*