

Dear Mayor and Council members ,

Re ; Riverside Trail Council meeting April 8th 2021= Two of two e- mails

I am writing to comment on the above mentioned issue . Having a “ multi use trail “ along Riverside Drive sounds like a wonderful idea in principal but in practise not so much . There are flaws in the plan that appears to try to be all things in a space that does not lend itself to a total trail concept .

Despite what has been reported in regards to the traffic (moderate speeds, that's a joke !) by lived experience I know that is simply not the case and higher speeds , passing and general poor driver behaviour are witnessed every day along Riverside Drive (Lesperance to Brighton) . The extreme noise level from high volumes of vehicles and heavy trucks as well as the safety factor makes this proposed trail a thumbs down project and at the very least the design is rudimentary . Without traffic calming (where is the Traffic Calming Report and why is it not attached as relevant info?) this area with it's noise, safety concerns and vehicle fumes is generally a no go area for me and my family to enjoy safe and pleasant walking outdoors . We would much rather walk / cycle other beautiful residential streets in Tecumseh to make our way to Lakewood Park where traffic is usually quieter. We consistently ask for action and solutions about this issue but to little or no avail which is extremely frustrating. No thanks but this plan with it's position as being the most cost effective is a waste of our taxes .

However , do the residents and other users want the amenities of cycle and pedestrian trails ? Most definitely YES and these funds are certainly an opportunity not to be missed .

As it stands today the existing sidewalk on the North side allows pedestrians to walk east and west and vice versa which is the same set up as hundreds of other residential neighbourhoods ... repair and upgrade this existing sidewalk and we would continue to have an simple east to west walkway .

But since that does not seem enough PLEASE THINK AND PLAN OUTSIDE OF THE BOX and plan accordingly.

If the trail is to be along the Drive then significantly reduce the speed and volume of traffic to the point where people can feel safe and at least talk to each other without screaming yelling and breathing in fumes because they are so close to the road . From a practical point of view the existing North side at least allows basic pedestrian movement from east to west and vice versa and would be even nicer with slower traffic . Alternatively , take the pedestrian trail through another route and install a cycle lane with an attractive physical buffer between cyclists and vehicles on the Drive .

Please ,listen to new ideas that come forward that may help us achieve something unique and forwarding thinking .

Riverside Drive in Tecumseh CANNOT be compared to the existing Ganatchio Trail in Windsor ; there is simply not enough existing public space to create an adequate green space buffer between pedestrian and road. Why are we even using Riverside / Ganatchio as a trail link when the lack of planning and allowed development from the past has prevented creating a trail with the same components ? Surely a trail that would connect Windsor Tecumseh and beyond does not always have to go in a straight line? Is it necessary that trails be the fastest route ?! Trails should be created to provide

complete safety and use the most aesthetically and environmentally pleasing route in order to achieve the best experience for the user .

The Dillon / Bezaire report has named and highlighted the section between Manning and Brighton as an existing multi use trail . Naming this section in this manner could imply to the reader that it has the same components as the Ganatchio or other trails which is extremely misleading as parts of the area between Arlington and Kensington reduces to a narrow sidewalk not as conveniently photographed . There is no designated cyclist path . There are no garbage facilities . There are no boulevard trees apart from what is growing on private property except possibly a few trees that were planted years ago and have been hacked badly because of proximity to hydro poles which inevitable shortens their life span .

However of significant concern is that there is a large section which is paved from the road edge to the edge of private properties as part of this "trail" . The paved section has been brought to the attention of council and administration by residents because of it's poorly maintained condition . In addition this area is frequently used as a vehicle pull over / passing as well as a permanent parking area which speaks to the safety concerns brought forward by the Lesperance / Manning residents re private parking and other obstacles . I will forward a photograph in another e mail which shows that vehicles frequently park along the so called existing trail for a variety of reasons physically blocking the sidewalk and subsequently compromising the overall use of the trail . According to the information from the town I have received there is nothing that can be done to prevent this safety issue .

So just what is the definition of a trail in Tecumseh ?

If the Town of Tecumseh cannot or will not maintain the poor conditions and issues that currently exist on the Drive and the inevitable liability issues that could follow which could compromise the safety of its residents why are we moving forward with more plans ?

Do not spend these tax dollars on a ' make do ' project but if we must move ahead develop the trail over and above the basic standard that the report writers have used as appropriate examples in other areas .(most of the examples as shown in various places around Windsor Essex were completed quite a few years ago) .

We need funds to do this job properly ,resurface ,install proper drainage , narrow the road to slow traffic and gain space , apply speed mitigation measures , bury utilities etc . These types of activities maybe cost prohibitive at present but how can we make a decision now if we do not all long term plan that resolves these important issues .

Do NOT accept an incomplete plan and use this opportunity to seek additional unique input and forward thinking ideas for the area as a whole .

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Edwards

Sent from my iPad