

We live on the south side of Riverside Dr. and are writing to you at this time to share our opinion and suggestions for the most recent extension plans of "TheTrail".

To begin with we would like to make it perfectly clear that we are NOT OPPOSED to having a safe place to ride a bike or go for a walk. We enjoy doing both as much as everyone else. We are not "NIMBY's", we don't consider ourselves to be "privileged" because we live here, nor are we attempting to prevent people from "enjoying public property" as has been stated on Facebook and in the Media. Yes, we have a vested interest in how the path is to be built and yes, we are also aware that the town owns the property that it is to be built on, however, our concerns should be a priority in the planning because we will be impacted the most by its placement.

We are completely FOR a plan that would allow the sidewalk on the north side to be replaced, a sidewalk added on the south side of the road NORTH of the existing hydro poles and bike paths on both sides of the road built directly beside the road. The stretch next to road in front of our home was paved years ago at our expense and gives a really good visual of how well this works. Using both sides will also give cyclists and walkers an opportunity to have a choice to cross or not cross the road, and enjoy the other parkettes on the north side as well as Lakewood Park, north or south.

We are very concerned about flooding. We already have an issue on our property because the homes built a few years ago to the west of us are at a higher grade and when it rains or there is a lot of snow we have to deal with water sometimes up to 6 inches deep. Also of great concern stemming from the west side is this: When our neighbour's vehicles are in the driveway parked to the end of their property line, (where their own property meets the placement of the proposed trail), we will not be able to see ANYONE heading east on their bike until they are past those vehicles meaning, it will be dangerous when we are leaving our driveway because we would have to pull out onto the trail to see past those vehicles. It will also be dangerous for us to walk out of our driveway because some of the cyclists travel at a high rate of speed and won't be able to see us, hence, another accident waiting to happen.

We have very large trees that are on our private property that will be impacted greatly by the proposed plan. We don't use salt to melt snow and ice but because this proposal puts the trail right against our property there will be run off which will damage our trees, lawn and driveway. Again flooding may become an issue. Building the bike path next to the road and the side walk next to the bike path should prevent damage to our private property.

Lastly, we are very concerned about how cyclists and walkers will navigate the roundabout. If roundabouts are installed to keep car traffic moving then why would a trail be incorporated to prevent that from happening?

Nick and Bonnie Coutinho