

From: Meghan Carew

Sent: April 8, 2021 10:29 AM

To: Laura Moy <lmoy@tecumseh.ca>

Cc: Andrew Dowie <adowie@tecumseh.ca>; Connor Shea

Subject: Introduction and comments for the Riverside Drive Trail expansion

Hello!

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Meghan Carew, and I recently moved to Tecumseh with my family, from Ottawa, Ontario. I reached out to Andrew Dowie this morning, and he provided me with your contact information, as I wanted to provide some additional comments on the trail expansion. Ottawa is a very green city, with much emphasis placed on the pedestrian experience, and while living in the downtown area with my family, we were lucky enough to be able to walk to work, instead of driving, and my children were able to walk to school, and we often took advantage of the many pathways and trails that lead you all over the city. It was a quick 10-15 minute bike ride to parliament hill to watch fireworks in one direction, and you could access many different cycling routes to get pretty much anywhere you needed to go! We were very lucky, in that most weekends, we would park our cars and get to everything we needed via foot or bikes.

With that perspective, and considering we purchased a home on Riverside drive, which we will move in to on May 31st, I wanted to reach out and express my enthusiasm on this project. While I understand it can be a very polarizing topic in the town at the moment, integrating pedestrian and cycling routes throughout the town will enhance the enjoyment for many residents, leading to more active lifestyles, and will allow many to make use of the numerous green spaces that we are lucky to have in the town.

During our house hunting, we noticed the support and opposition to the current proposed trail, and feel that, coming from Ottawa, my husband and I would definitely bring a different perspective based on our experience in using the multitude of pathways and trails that are integral to the downtown core of Ottawa. (we lived in an older neighbourhood in urban ottawa, which was bordered by the highway, a main parkway to the airport, a university and the canal.) As you can imagine, it was a very traffic heavy area, due to the proximity of those aforementioned amenities, as well as being a diverse and dense neighbourhood populated with many families, students, working professionals and retirees. One of the most amazing parts of the neighbourhood was never really feeling like you were downtown, as the pedestrians and bike traffic were always held close in priority to car traffic. (Ottawa has struggled with traffic control for many years.)

My husband and I feel that the challenges facing the riverside drive east pathway are very similar to many challenges in Ottawa, in that the integration of the pathway to an existing road, with space constraints and other infrastructure to accommodate can be

tough to execute in a manner that keeps all its users safe. We are of the opinion that these traffic calming measures would enhance the adoption of the trail and I have included a link to the resource from the city of ottawa which also links to the canadian guide to traffic calming from the transportation association of canada. (Traffic Calming Design Guidelines | City of Ottawa)

Traffic calming measures frequently used included :

- reducing the speed limit from 40 KM/H to 30KM/H in key zones

- adding speed humps that are raised sections of asphalt (larger and broader than a speed bump, to deter motorists from speeding)

adding 'bump outs' to narrow the road where speed humps cannot be accomodated (or used with speed humps) these are sections where the curb on either side is bumped out into the roadway (in a rounded triangular fashion) to promote reduced speeds.

- Using large planters and concrete to create larger bumpouts, and enhance the neighbourhoods with greenery and flowers)

In areas with designated bike lanes:

- Using a curb and creating a physical barrier to promote safer bike lanes

- Implementing multi use pathways with directional signage for areas where pedestrians and cyclists share the space.

My family is currently renting a home on Old Tecumseh Road, and we were very apprehensive in using the bike/pedestrian walkways here with our young family. Keeping my children (often on bikes and scooters) in the designated path, and pushing our baby in a stroller along the pathway is very stressful, knowing that there is no physical separation, and also a speed limit (50KM/H on that section is too high, cars exceed that by 10-20 during rush way on a daily basis.) We do not find that many (if any) of the measures were adopted on old tecumseh road, and while the pedestrian pathway is used by many, it has some serious risk involved in using it.

It is my hope that the town of tecumseh does not simply put in a trail without considering many of these measures. While it is obvious that adopting these measures will increase the cost of the project, it will also be a huge investment for the residents of the town and will definitely be a worthwhile investment. I noticed an article in the windsor star that noted the city of windsor no longer has a declining population, which is fantastic news, but also investing in the trail will absolutely attract residents from all over windsor to enjoy the othway, increasing the economic opportunities for the town as well. regardless of whether the trail is placed on the north or south side, the key to its success will be which of these measures are adopted.

Additionally, it appears to be safer to move the trail to the north side, as there is an existing shoulder, and ample space (along with the pre-existing sidewalk). I have some

concerns about the trail being placed on the south side of the road, considering the multiple streets, intersections and other infrastructure in place.

I wanted to send this in ahead of the meeting tonight, although I know I am cutting it close, and for that I do apologize. It is unfortunate that those who wish to 'rethink the trail' have been misrepresented as being opposed to the trail, however if the town is to invest in such an amenity, it is important to do so in a manner that will promote its use, and ensure the safety of all, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike.

I do look forward to using this trail in the future, and to interacting with the project team via the online portal.

I would be happy to speak with you further and can be reached at .

Sincerely,

Meghan Carew and Connor Shea

(and Autumn, Isla and Jameson, our future trail users!!)