

As residents of Riverside Drive we want to make it clear that we are not 'opposed' to a safe place to ride your bicycle or walk your dog. If residents of the town of Tecumseh are asked if they would like a multi-use trail, of course they will all answer "yes". I would answer yes! But you need to take into consideration as to the 'extent' of the trail that is needed.

This cannot be thought of as an "extension of the Ganatcho Trail". We do not have the space that the trail does and it does not cross in front of 77 driveways; go around hydro poles and cross 12 streets.

What we do believe is that that **the sidewalk on the north side of the road should be replaced, a sidewalk added on the south side of the road and bike paths on both sides of the road.** There is already plenty of space on the north side from the existing sidewalk to the road. **Paved gutters or curbs** are also needed to prevent the ruts, mud and standing water that will otherwise occur.

It is not necessary to provide a 2.4 (or 3) meter wide path for we believe (as bicyclists ourselves) that bicycles and e-bikes belong on a separate path, not sharing a 2.4 meter wide path intended for all to use. The Ganatcho Trail provides a large amount of grassed area in which a bicyclist could easily ride 'around' pedestrians, wheelchairs, walkers, dogs on leashes, etc. There is nowhere to "ride around" anyone on the proposed multi-use path as you would then be on the road or on the residents' front lawns. The recent update on Old Tecumseh Road, east of Brighton Rd, seems a good plan as it meets all of these needs. Many of the places we have travelled (and bicycled) seem to provide a separate lane for bicycles and one separate for pedestrians. It just isn't safe to share a multi-use path.

The issue about "crossing Riverside Dr which is a busy road" can be argued as people already cross on other busy roads while using the paths: Old Tecumseh Rd in Lakeshore, Riverside Drive at Pentilly, traffic lights (Lesperance Rd) and also the crosswalk at Chartwell St. Clair Beach Retirement Residence. Having sidewalks on both sides will eliminate the need to cross Riverside Dr where it is unsafe to do so. Navigating the roundabout at Manning Rd and Riverside Dr. is dangerous no matter how you design the path.

The costs will be much more to add this 2.4 meter path on the south side due to the hydro poles and many signs needed to safely cross 12 streets and 77 driveways. When crossing side streets and driveways, there are signs at each crossing to stop. If riding your bicycle on a bike path along the side of the road, you can continue riding uninterrupted and stop only when there are traffic lights or stop signs along with the car traffic. We have seen what a multi path can look like after years of neglect and which was originally laid around trees that no longer exist: east side of Manning Road. It will be difficult to navigate around the hydro poles when on a bicycle especially with walkers, wheelchairs, dog walkers. It would be so much safer to provide a sidewalk for walkers and a separate path for bicycles.

A concern for us is flooding. The grade will definitely be raised compared to the level of our front yard and we will experience more flooding than we already do. We are in a flood plain. Who will be responsible for maintenance of this multi-use trail (garbage, snow)?

The people supporting the "Extend the Trail" do not live on Riverside Drive and will not have an 8-9 foot wide path running across their front yards, with destroyed landscaping, removed trees and increased flooding. The picture being used on their web page is lovely but is in no way a valid representation for this residential area. There are no driveways, no hydro poles, no streets to cross, and no busy road running directly alongside of it!



We live on Riverside Drive, we pay the taxes that allow us to live on Riverside Drive, we are the group that should be *heard and listened to* as our taxes will go up and our property values will go down and we are the residents that will be directly affected by your plan of a multi use path.

Ed and Linda Zieba
Riverside Dr. E