

Sent: April 6, 2021 9:20 PM

Subject: Submission for the special meeting regarding the Riverside Ganatchio trail extension

We are devoted walkers and recreational cyclists and our daughters roller blade regularly. The idea of improved pedestrian access between Windsor and Lakewood park is appealing to us, but as taxpayers we would like our tax contribution to be used wisely.

Anyone who has driven along Riverside between the end of the bike lane at Riverdale Ave in Windsor and the bike lane start at Brighton Road has seen automobiles struggling to pass road biking enthusiasts, especially on the Tecumseh portion.

Riverside Drive is the favoured route for serious road bike riders, with the thoroughfare travelled most days, weekends especially.

It is rare to see one of the road bike riders use the Ganatchio Trail. They seem to be unwilling to give up their right of way to walkers, driveways and the few streets that the trail crosses. They certainly don't use Ganatchio to travel Westbound.

These bikes cause dangerous passing attempts when vehicle traffic is heavy, as most drivers need to encroach on the oncoming lane to get around, and there is no run-off room for opposing drivers to avoid them. Riverside is also dangerous for the cyclists.

The paved width of Riverside Drive is reduced dramatically at the Welcome to Tecumseh sign. The lanes in Windsor measure 4.0 Meters, with mountable curbs and storm drains on both sides, and a meagre 3.4 meters in the old Village of Tecumseh, where there are no curbs, but gravel.

The south side depends on grass and gravel to drain Riverside's runoff water. This seems to be substandard design and exists only in the old town of Tecumseh...St. Clair Beach has mountable curbs, wider pavement and proper street drainage.

We walk along Riverside on the north side sidewalk quite frequently. Anyone who does so after a rainstorm, or in the winter will tell you that the current north side sidewalk is poorly engineered, and has fallen into broken disrepair. It is especially treacherous in winter months when the water that covers the sidewalk freezes into dangerous ice in the areas that are not covered with mud. We had this driven home to us when we attempted to walk along Riverside with my visually impaired mother, who almost constantly was on the verge of tripping and falling.

The proposed multiuse trail, on the South side will not solve these issues. In fact, it will prevent the runoff of rainwater from the eastbound pavement on Riverside Drive in many places.

Cyclists, especially bikes travelling westbound, will still ride on asphalt rather than a serpentine trail broken by streets and edged with telephone poles. Riverside's Tecumseh lanes will remain at least sixty cm. too narrow for drivers to share the road,

The sidewalk that remains on the north side will still be poorly engineered, suffer the same bad drainage and icing that it does currently and will still be a hazard for pedestrians.

For our tax money we would like to see the existing North side sidewalk drainage and integrity brought back to modern design standards, and Riverside Drive widened to allow bike lanes or at least wider lanes in both directions for cyclists, with mountable curbs and proper engineered drainage for both east and west bound traffic.

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