

Kerri McNamara
Tecumseh, Ontario

April 7, 2021

Mayor McNamara and Members of Council,

My Name is Kerri McNamara and I reside 2 blocks south of Riverside Drive. I walk my dog every day and I have taken many routes to get to Lakewood Park. It is my opinion that the design of the Riverside Trail will not satisfy the needs for all users.

The idea of sharing a path with cyclists for two way traffic on such a narrow trail is not appealing to me and would be dangerous. I would much rather walk along a sidewalk where I did not have to worry about my dog in close proximity to cyclists. The plan also shows the trail very close to private properties and I am sure my dog will find his way onto those resident's private lawns, creating an uncomfortable experience. I would avoid the proposed route and choose an alternative that would be more enjoyable. A separate bike lane dedicated for cyclists seems much more fitting for the Riverside Drive roadway. The sidewalk on the North is in desperate shape and council should consider taking care of the necessary repairs.

Based on the various users and the plans for the Town of Tecumseh's Transportation Network, I believe that a combination of sidewalk and dedicated bike lanes fills all the boxes and will be used by many more residents than the current plan for the narrow trail.

Another consideration I would like to propose is a controlled pedestrian street crossing across the South and North side of Riverside Drive. I think this would be a great benefit for many, located at any of the road intersections along the 2.4 km of Riverside Dr..

If a multi-use trail is the Town of Tecumseh's objective, than I would like to present an alternative solution to the currently proposed Riverside Dr trail. The limitations on the Riverside Dr. site prevent the installation of a true multi-use trail which should be much wider than the 8 or 9 feet designed by the town. It will not have an adequate clear zone area between the path and the private properties and will encroach dramatically onto home sites. This alternative route would have a larger corridor of land that would accommodate a much wider path and would be much less imposing on the nearby residences.

The function of a multi use trail is to link business, recreation, schools and also provide a safe travel corridor with limited impact to residents and the environment. The Riverside multi-use trail checks very few of these requirements.

I would rather support a project which is financially more feasible, easier to achieve and will also satisfy a larger variety of groups including children, cyclists, roller blade enthusiasts, runners and walkers.

My proposal is to link the Ganatcho trail to the trails at Lakewood Park and Manning Rd by travelling along Lesperance Rd south toward Dillon. There is currently a sidewalk in place as well as a large grass corridor next to the road. You would then turn east onto Dillon Ave which has an existing sidewalk and again a large grass corridor next to the road which would allow for the construction of a much wider multi-use trail without impacting any of the homeowners or encroaching onto their private property. This path would continue to Lacasse Ave which has a large central median that is grassed and could easily provide an area for the multi-use trail to exist without impacting any homeowner. Travelling south, this trail could extend to Lacasse Park and provide a safe link to a large heavily used park and schools.

To provide an easterly link, the trail would continue along Little River Rd which again has a pre existing sidewalk currently installed and also a large grass median next to the road. The path would continue east along Little River Rd until Manning Rd and would have little to impact the current homeowners who reside along this corridor. This route is free of obstructions, trees and would require a small reduction in width to accommodate a few fire hydrants. In my opinion this route is a much better solution for a link from the Ganatchio Trail to the Lakewood Trail.

This proposal would allow safe travel for students, link businesses along Lesperance Rd, provide an alternative route for members of the Tecumseh United Church, encourage safe travel to Lacasse Park, and would allow the public to travel to Little River Park as well as Lakewood Park.

This plan is financially feasible, provides more than enough land to properly install a large multi-use path with minimal impact on homes and will also use secondary use roadways to increase safety for all users. Please consider this proposal as a plan to move forward with and support rather than trying to force a multi use trail into an area which was never designed to accommodate such a pathway.

Please band together as residents to resist a flawed plan that does not adequately meet the needs or the goals of a multi use trail that connects the Ganatcho Trail to the Lakewood Park and Manning Rd Trails.

Thank You

Kerri McNamara

Town of Tecumseh Resident