

From: Jacqueline Madden
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 2:01 PM
To: ppmclerks <ppmclerks@london.ca>
Cc: Williamson, Emily <ewilliam@london.ca>; Menard, Jay
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan-Gloucester Deferred Trail

Please include the following email in the added agenda for the PIC meeting on Feb. 21st.

My name is Jacqueline Madden and I have been involved in the Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan as an accessibility advocate since 2012. I initially participated as a neighbour, then as a member of ACCAC and most recently as a community accessibility advocate.

I am pleased to see the final portion of this plan being completed and agree with the staff recommendation of a Level 2 trail at the Gloucester Rd, access point number 12.

This has been an incredibly long process that included much community consultation in the development of both the CMP phase one and CMP phase II. After CMP phase II was referred back to staff for additional work, many collaborative working sessions took place involving staff and members of EEPAC and ACCAC. The result of these meetings was the revised CMP phase II which was approved by Council in 2021 except for this one small access point. The access point was deferred mainly due to the objections of the local community who did not want to see any changes to their neighbourhood.

I would like to draw your attention to the City of London's "Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas" which was published in 2016 after considerable public consultation with community stakeholders. In Section 2.3, Trails and Permitted Activities, it states, "Trails to permit access for persons with disabilities, consistent with these guiding principles and AODA requirements, will be provided where this can be achieved while protecting the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA". It is my understanding that all the appropriate studies have been done to determine that it is ecologically feasible, and perhaps even desirable, to install a level 2 trail at this access point. This is certainly consistent with the overarching accessibility approach to make any trail as accessible as possible to allow for enjoyment by the greatest number of our community members.

While I understand that neighbourhoods are resistant to change, it is incumbent upon our elected officials to ensure that we are following our own guidelines that have been put in place through much hard work and community consultation as well as the laws that govern accessibility (AODA) so that those most vulnerable are not forgotten in the process. Both our City-developed guidelines and our provincial laws support the inclusion of a level 2 trail at this access point.

I urge you to approve this trail as recommended by the staff.

Jacqueline Madden