

November 1, 2013

Attention: Lauren Kucera, Maged Elmadhoon

This is a written submission regarding converting Bruce and Elmwood Ave from one way to two way streets for the participation meeting on Monday November 11, 2013.

I cannot attend the meeting in person due to work commitments and would like you to consider the following points before making a final decision. At this time I do not understand the rationale for this idea as Elmwood Ave as a one way appears to serve us well.

1. Around 3 or 4(?) years ago Elmwood Ave was entirely turned up to put in new sewers and poles.
The new roadwork put in place a few years ago looked to appear to be an expensive operation and we all lived in the most obnoxious dust for well over 6 months. We could not open windows all summer, had to sweep every day, our lawns were damaged and the process sucked but needed to be done. A beautiful job of landscaping the parking section on the south side was put into place. The trees were preserved and the street functions and looks beautiful now. Parking is an important feature of this street because there is only 1 driveway on a residential property for the entire south side (between Rideout and Wortley Rd.). Old south is a back laneway community. I live in a home designated as multifamily and we all have family and friends that need access to parking on both sides as currently designated.
Do you have plans to dig up Elmwood again, remove some or all parking access or cut down well established trees to move forward with this plan?
2. More importantly, if you live this close to the village which is the hub of our existence, you will see that Elmwood is the corridor street for our elderly population who reside in an apartment complex on the east side of Rideout and Elmwood. If you live in my home you will see that many walk with aids and the sidewalks in the winter are often difficult to navigate and they choose to walk on the road close to the sidewalk for added safety. A 2 way Elmwood would make this road even more threatening for them.
3. Consider emergency services. Elmwood is a major road for fire and ambulance services to get into our area as well as for connecting further west up to Wharncliffe Rd. Why make it more congested and difficult for them to navigate a major access road. They at least have the comfort of knowing everyone is only going in the same direction. Maybe I'm mistaken but have you asked them what they think about how this would impact their services?
4. If you were to sit on my porch and watch the bus as it turns onto our street from Rideout, it swings wide into what would be the lane for oncoming traffic if made into a 2 way street. There would not be enough room to easily make this turn as it now stand. I can't imagine 2 buses travelling in opposite directions on this road. It is noisy enough without 2 way traffic noise and fumes. Do you have plans to widen the road to accommodate bus traffic?
5. It seems obvious to me that this plan will involve additional cost for the city and tax payers, money that seems scare at this time. I am not convinced it warrants spending even more dollars again on this road....for what gain?

Thank you for submitting my concerns: I would appreciate if you can confirm receiving this feedback.

Jody Galardo and Dennis Slade, 191 Elmwood Ave East.