

Date: Friday August 15, 2014

Dear Chair and Members of the Civic Works Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present ourselves. We are the community of neighbours living on both the north and south sides of Shavian Boulevard, west of Richmond Road and east of Cherokee Road, who have come together with a shared request. We thank Ward 7 Councillor Matt Brown and Edward Soldo, Director of Roads and Transportation for meeting with us in person and helping to facilitate this submission.

We appreciate your recognition that we were not included formally in the earlier decision making process regarding the installation of sidewalks in our neighbourhood.

Several households had enough questions and concerns to each personally contact City Hall following the receipt of a letter from the Transportation & Planning Division in April of this year. We were surprised to see work suddenly start on Cherokee & McStay last week, specifically in the manner that some of us were told was not possible on Shavian Blvd.

Our lack of interest in having any sidewalks installed at all was made very clear. While there isn't unanimity amongst us on the exact need for or desirability of sidewalks along this stretch, we would ask that you consider our overall requests in an effort to come to a unified collaborative decision.

Safety has been expressed as a serious concern, as well as preserving and respecting the integrity of our long established neighbourhood. We feel it reasonable that more could be gained for our "community within a community". If a sidewalk must be installed for safety reasons, then road narrowing with the installation of this sidewalk, and the subsequent slowing down of the inevitable increase in future traffic, should be the goal.

Shavian Blvd. is a very wide road coming off a major arterial road, Richmond Road. Therefore, there is a tendency for some drivers to speed. There was some consideration about speed humps but our community asked for them to not be installed. This was presumably for a variety of reasons. Speed humps are a very inelegant solution to speed. They encourage rapid acceleration and deceleration (as any observation on Ambleside Drive or Louise Blvd. would show) wasting fuel, drawing a driver's attention away from children or other obstacles coming towards the road, cause potential damage to suspension from repeated minor jostling and are ineffective against wide-based cars and service vehicles. Narrowing streets encourages slower, even paced driving without the potential drawbacks. Therefore, narrowing streets with added sidewalks significantly improves safety, both pedestrian and vehicular.

We understand that such a sidewalk installation is more expensive with a greater need for driveway remediation. However, we believe that this is a suitable investment in our neighbourhood given the future growth on Richmond Road and the potential long-term community benefits. We appreciate the opportunity to continue these discussions as soon as possible and appreciate our inclusion in the decision making process.

Thank you again and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Jan Hunter

37 Shavian Blvd.