

September 12, 2014

Councillor Harold Usher and Members of the Civic Works Ctee
City of London,
London Ontario

**Re: Civic Works Committee Report Agenda,
Shavian Blvd Sidewalk**

Dear Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Old Masonville Ratepayers Association ("OMRA") to express our position on a request heard by the Civic Works Committee at its August 25th meeting. The committee voted 4:1 to proceed with the original plan.

During that meeting it was suggested that the OMRA had a position on this issue and the purpose of this letter is to document our position. We strongly believe that it is in the best interests of the majority of our neighbourhood to complete the sidewalk system/network as planned by the City. Given the information that was presented at the meeting, and the rationale for the placement of the sidewalks on the city property inside the present curb on Shavian, the OMRA supports the recommendation of the Transportation Division, as well as the City Engineer to move forward with the approved plan without alteration.

It is important to understand that sidewalks in our community has been a 20+ year journey, to provide a system to enable all +/- 160 homes and their residents on Hillview, Hillside, McStay, Shavian Blvd & Court, Cherokee Road and Mohawk the ability to gain access to Richmond by foot via an integrated sidewalk system. And beyond that, to allow our children access to Masonville Public School by a system that includes sidewalks on McStay/Shavian/Cherokee or Hillside/Hillview. It should be noted the sidewalks also enable children from our larger neighbourhood, including the St Bee's area, Ambleside and adjacent streets, and Louise/Brian area, safe walking access to our local school. I will remind all that when the sidewalks were built on Hillside/Hillview in the mid nineties, they were placed inside the curb, in fact with a boulevard except in those places where that was not possible. The residents of the three secondary collector roads, Hillview, Hillside, and what is proposed for Shavian, have been treated exactly the same.

While the consultation/decision making process could be improved and we can certainly make suggestions in that regard, that is not a solid reason to overturn your initial decision. The project has already been delayed such that it has not been available for the school year commencement, so safety will remain an issue in the coming months, until the project is completed. We hope the latter is imminent.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Bill Davis
President, Old Masonville Ratepayers' Association

cc. Matt Brown, Councillor Ward 7
Karl Grabowski, Transportation Design Engineer