

Members of The Civic Works Committee

February 16, 2017

RE: Warranted Sidewalk Program Proposal

I am Donna Jordan and represent the residents of Regis Ave and Regis Place.

100 % of the residents living on these two courts, have signed a petition stating their opposition to the sidewalk implementation scheduled for our street. All of the twenty-four homes directly impacted by this project are in opposition and are 100% supported by the small neighbourhood community that uses Regis Ave and Regis Place as their regular community environment.

After reviewing the city criteria that was used to include our courts for being prioritized on the Warranted Sidewalk list, we believe that statistically and logically, we do should not qualify for the sidewalks.

Regis Ave and Regis Place are two, short, conjoined dead-end courts. It takes less than five minutes to traverse the entire length of either court, from the Wayne Road access point. Normal residential traffic is minimal and there are no bus stops in close proximity, nor on Wayne Road. There are no indicators for future, higher residency impact in this immediate area. Future housing developments would be at a distance that would probably necessitate the building of another school or would warrant school busing to the entrance of the community schools. Status quo has been maintained over the past forty years with the normal ebb and flow of family demographic changes in the Regis Ave area.

We have two scenarios to explain.

The first scenario constitutes the lack of sidewalk necessity based on, " Reasonable Intent."

In regards to pedestrian traffic, ongoing observation of our street has statistically shown that only four children and two adults traverse our court area from Wayne Road on a regular, daily basis, while enroute to a footpath connecting to Byron Southwood School. Normal vehicle traffic of the residents is minimal. Under regular use, both the pedestrian and vehicle traffic volume is extremely low and thus allows for a safe and walkable route funnelling to the

only thoroughfare, which is the school walkway at the end of Regis Place.

The qualifying criteria for the Warranted Sidewalk Program, which encourages improved, community connectivity is not substantiated here. Connectivity is very limited. The walkway itself is a short inclined pathway that is posted as, "Walkway Unmaintained, Use at Own Risk." It is closed and gated to prevent school grounds from being accessed during school hours and pedestrians are not encouraged by school staff to be on the property. The property is also posted as, "Closed from dusk to dawn, "and "No Dogs Allowed on School Property." All of these limiting factors are significant and definitely are inhibitors to allow for meeting criteria encouraging walkability. This would imply there is not a need for sidewalk projects at a cost of approximately \$ 30,000. Sidewalks would simply funnel low pedestrian traffic patterns to this limited, terminal access point for the majority of week day hours.

Our second scenario considers "Problematic , Unnecessary Non Resident Use."

The real issue and concern regarding safe community walkability is that a few parents use Regis Place as a quick, convenient school drop off point for their children. This purpose historically was never intended.

Frequent observation has shown that twenty-two vehicles regularly frequent the court, solely for their use as an alternate school parking lot. They arrive and depart usually within a limited, 15 minute time frame, from 8:45 to 9:00 am. The majority of cars are stopping only at the immediate, curb-side access point directly in front of the school's unmaintained walkway. This practice does not require these students to walk any part of the road.

Depending on the traffic volume at any given time, no vehicles observed needed to park at a greater distance than one-quarter of a block from this pathway. The direct route to the pathway from any parking spot on the two Courts took no more than five minutes to traverse. All of these children were monitored by parents to the walkway. All school traffic had usually left by 9:10 a.m. In this situation, sidewalks would not encourage neighbourhood walkability. These families represent the reality of today's lifestyle in seeking fast, convenient, self-serving schedules. They do not want to walk-- they want to drive. They would not walk sidewalks if they can drive and park at such a close proximity. This trend would indicate

there may be more of a need for traffic calming solutions, rather than sidewalk implementation for the Regis area.

Observation also indicates that most of these vehicles are coming from the west side of the school where the front entrance is situated. This is the same area however, where the ongoing school problems with the drop off /pick up areas, still have not been resolved over the past few years. Our streets were never intended to be a solution for school traffic congestion.

Contrary to using our east side street, perhaps Byron Southwood children should utilize what already exists. They have three areas where safe, accessible walkability routes already exist with sidewalks along Baseline and Boler Roads. Since Lola and Jellicoe Streets on the west side of the school carry the vast majority of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, it does seem logical to move forward with the warranted sidewalk implementation at those locations . We are not stating the NIMBY factor. These routes actually connect directly to bus routes and larger community facilities, as well as to the school. The Boler Road school access route, already has existing sidewalks to an entry point directly into the school's green area with zero traffic. It is an existing, excellent option to promote a walkable, safe environment, at no cost to the city.

For these reasons we believe that Regis Ave and Regis Place do not meet the criteria necessary for sidewalk implementation. We understand the City's commitment to the Warranted Sidewalk Program but we strongly believe that adding sidewalks to our two courts is not in the spirit intended by this program. As responsible parents and long term residents we believe our streets are safe and walkable. We ask that you consider the unique characteristics of our community as described, and request that you do not approve sidewalk implementation.

Thank you for your consideration and time in regards to this matter.

Regis Ave Committee

Donna Jordan

Debbie Woo

Deborah Kleiber