

Dear Civic Works Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to express my objection to the inclusion of sidewalks in the Oakridge roadworks project slated to start this Spring.

First: The uprooting affect on gardens, yards, and hedges falls very short of the "Green Plan" as does cutting down huge established trees.

As well, reading the Best Practice guidelines, section 3.4 confirms to me that the City is not following the suggested guidelines.

#### BEST PRACTICE BY NATIONAL GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE 3.4.2. Existing Right-of-Way

Municipalities should use the listed criteria to develop methodology and selection procedure. For older sections of the community....The following factors should be considered when determining where additional sidewalks should be constructed.

- Addition of transit or school bus routes; (NOT APPLICABLE)
- Providing access for elderly and persons with disabilities; (APPLICABLE - However, of the residents surveyed, even some of those who have mobility issues and/or children, object to having sidewalks.)  
As well, in the winter, the sidewalks are rarely plowed after a storm in time for children to walk to school, so they walk on the road anyway.
- Community input; (The city did not request community input. We the residents, including some with mobility issues, however, are communicating that we DO NOT want them.)
- Continuity of sidewalks; (NOT APPLICABLE)
- Increased pedestrian volumes; (NO INCREASE)
- Addition of new facilities including schools, parks, sports complexes; (NO ADDITIONS)
- The presence of other pedestrian generators (library, community centre, church, hospital, shopping mall) (NO ADDITIONS)
- Vehicle speed, traffic and truck volumes; (NO HIGHER VOLUME)
- Collision data relating to pedestrians; (NO reported incidents)
- Weather implications; (NO CHANGE)
- Type of roadway shoulder and width; (NO CHANGE) and
- Population density. (NO CHANGE)

The financial aspect:

Omitting sidewalks from the plan would save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars; not only in the initial construction, but in future maintenance costs.

Surely this money could be put to better use.

To save additional money on contract commitment, we ask that no tender for sidewalk installation be issued until this matter is resolved.

We have been told that installation of sidewalks is part of the London Policy and likely nothing can be done. One city official wrote that the 'City' owns the property aligning the streets (implying what? - that "City" can do as it wishes?) Last I heard, this is a democracy, which, therefore, means the 'city' is a conglomerate of individual residents. City employees work for the residents. I understand that there are general policies and guidelines in place to bring continuity. However, when over 90% of the residents in our section of Oakridge reject part of a 'City' plan. Then the city should respect our wishes.

Respectfully,  
Jeanette and John Morgan  
[433 West Mile Rd.](#)

Cc: Mayor Brown

Jackie Martin