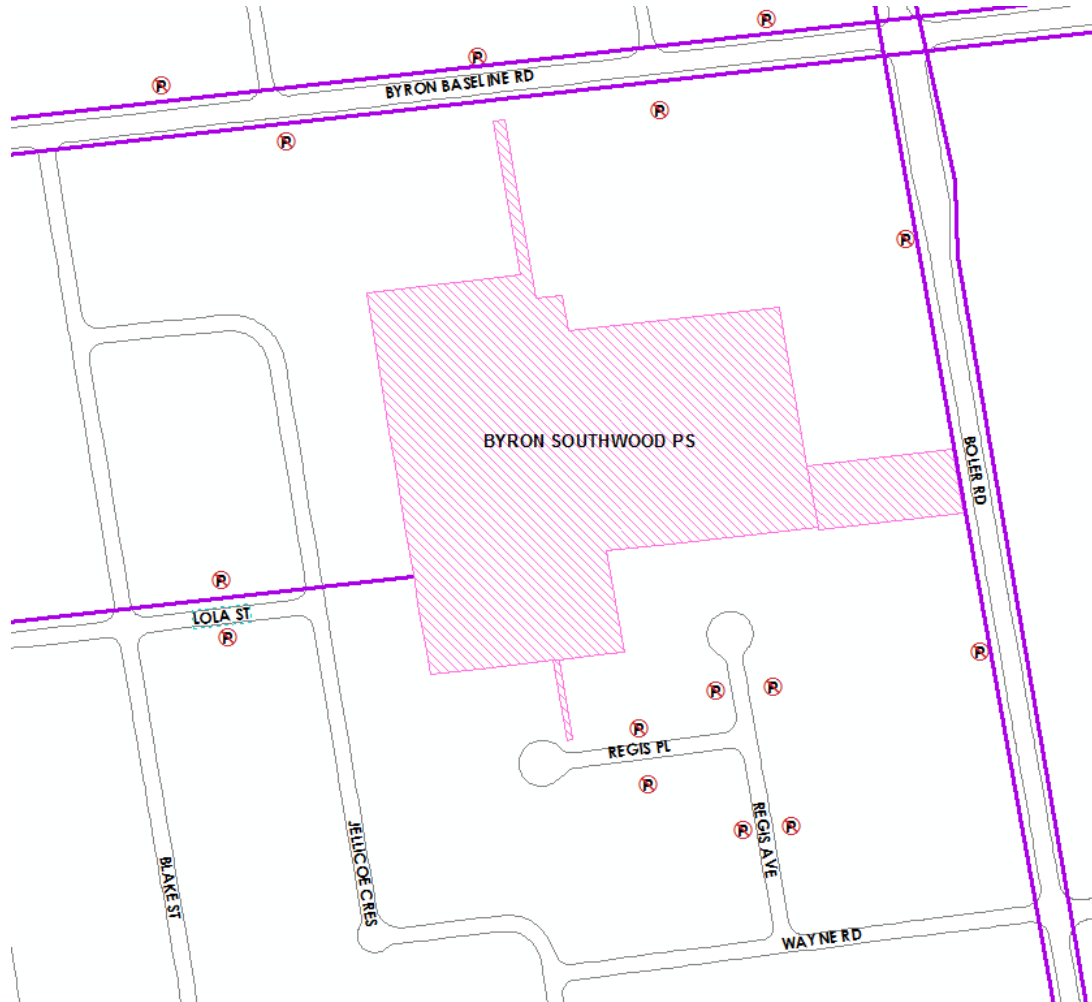


Dear CWC committee members,

I have a student in JK at Byron Southwood Public School. Safety and traffic congestion are a chronic issue in and around this school due to a lack of sidewalks and insufficient parking on-site and along side streets.

The school is internal to a large city block, and has four pedestrian access points as mapped below. For parents or caregivers that need to drive to the school to drop off or pick up students, parking is now restricted near 3 of the four access points, and the street fronting the fourth access point (Jellicoe) has no sidewalks to separate this convergence of cars and pedestrians. (Sidewalks are the bold lines)



For the 2017 Warranted Sidewalk Program, staff recommended sidewalks approaching the south access point (Regis Pl., Regis Ave. and Wayne Rd.). Homeowners objected, and not only did this committee balk at installing sidewalks, it also banned stopping during drop-off and pick-up times, in the interest of 'safety' - forcing students and parents on to more distant, busier streets, still with no sidewalks. From a safety point of view, this is a wash at best. Regis Ave. & Pl. remain an important pedestrian route and sidewalks are still justified here - I am surprised and disappointed that they have not been considered for the 2018 program.

My recommendation to the committee would be to defer the installation of the Commissioners Rd sidewalk, which scored '60' based on Council's criteria, and instead either move forward with last year's Regis-Regis-Wayne recommendation (score '65', cost \$75,775), or the even higher rated Jellicoe Cres. segment (score '75', cost \$93,625). An alternative/additional measure could be to shift parking on Boler Ave. from the east to the west side of the street to allow more use of the School's east access point.

A final thought on process - it looks like expanded consultation with residents is being adopted. While this is laudable, it should be noted that the immediate residents are not the only stakeholders. This approach may amplify the voices of naysayers.

My view is that in the long run, all streets in the city should have sidewalks. I think it's fair to have discussions about what the priority areas should be, but I don't think anyone should be able to block sidewalks from their particular area. Sidewalks are a public good that benefit entire neighbourhoods, and every front lawn has a role to play.

Thank-you for your consideration,

**Kent Buchanan**  
378 Colville Boulevard