

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Sidewalks Friars Ways

As the motivation/justification for this appears to be to promote accessibility and safety in the neighborhood, I would be curious to know how many accidents there have been between motorists and pedestrians on the roads in our neighborhood in the last 10 years to justify this. I'm sure that the stats for cities will, in general, point to the increased safety of sidewalks but I'm not convinced this is always the case, particularly in neighborhoods such as ours.

Indeed, I appreciate that sidewalks are a necessity on larger, busier roadways, but one might argue that sidewalks, which are often poorly maintained in our neighborhood, can also create barriers to mobility. The individual concrete sections in our neighbourhood are often poorly aligned due to tree root uplift and create numerous trip hazards. During the winter, sidewalks are usually far icier than the road and the snow plough often blocks off the access at road junctions (thinking of wheelchairs and parents with strollers in particular), forcing pedestrians onto the roads anyway. Indeed, it is not unusual to see people choose the road as a preferable, safer alternative to the sidewalk at all times of year.

just my 2 cents and I'm happy to be corrected as I haven't tried to navigate the neighborhood in a wheelchair or with a white cane (though I've grappled with the odd stroller or two!). I do, however, find it frustrating that the city always thinks improvements = more concrete.

best,
Ed

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