

Greetings-

In response to the City of London proposal to install side walks, curbs and gutters on Doncaster Place and Friars Way can this letter be circulated to all members of the civic works committee:

I do work in many areas of the city and this affords me the opportunity to see how different parts of the city get very different levels of service. Snow removal on roads and salting and sanding of the sidewalks. This winter, with the 2 heavy snow falls our neighbourhood roads have been plowed sometime in the afternoon while other areas of the city roads are plowed before 9:00 am. One neighbourhood (Old East) had the sidewalks plowed twice in the same day, once before my street was plowed. As I drove home today February 16 at around 3:30pm I only saw a few people using the sidewalk on Wychwood Park - it was plowed but heavy snow pack and no sand made it unsafe to walk along. Only the young children walking with their parents were using the sidewalks- everyone else, people walking their dogs, unaccompanied children were on the road where it was safer.

Having lived on Doncaster Place for over 20 years, I can state that snow removal this year is better then previously. Previous years we have had heavy snow and have not seen a plow for up to 5 days-multiple inches of snow and multiple inches of ice buildup on the roads resulting in unsafe road conditions. All this to say that if the city cannot plow our existing roads and one sidewalk on Wychwood Park to reasonable standards why are we adding to the problem. I would rather see my tax dollars being put into maintaining the existing roads in Sherwood Forest.

I am also aware that it appears that you are planning on placing the sidewalk on Doncaster Place directly beside the road. With the sidewalk on the curb, the road snow will be placed on the sidewalk and then the sidewalk plow will come and push it off on to the road and the cycle will repeat.

Currently, the sidewalks on Wychwood Park and Lawson Road are in disrepair. There are several spots that the city has spray-painted indicating trip hazards – yet after 2 years the hazards remain as paint fades. Perhaps fixing this would be an appropriate way to spend the savings?

I am often on Grandview Ave where sections of the sidewalk were replaced 3 years ago this summer due to bad cement and lifting of the sidewalk. Cement was poured over tree roots, no or minimal sand or stone fill put under cement before being poured. Additionally, no steel rod or wire used to stop the cement from frost lift and shear or to connect new sections to the previously installed sidewalk. So I believe that the city has a poor track record on sidewalks already without adding more kilometers to be maintained.

Sincerely,
Walter Henke
62 Doncaster Place