

I am writing to express my concern and strong opposition to the proposed sidewalk which would run on the south side of St Anthony Road between Hyde Park and Hampton Crescent.

My neighbourhood, sometimes referred to as Hazelden South, or Old Hazelden, is an entirely residential subdivision with fewer than 180 homes, and a road network consisting of 5 small local roads. The subdivision is very quiet, with extremely low traffic volumes, and no identifiable Destination Points or Points of Interest, like schools, churches or stores. Traffic within the neighborhood is strictly generated to and from the homes within the neighbourhood, with little, if any "pass through/cut through traffic". St Anthony Road is not used as a "short cut" to anywhere, and the neighbourhood does not facilitate a municipal bus route.

While I understand that the consideration of sidewalks in City projects is in accordance with the City's Transportation Master Plan, The London Plan, and Vision Zero Principles, it is my concern that implementing sidewalks in a blanket manner, without a comprehensive review of the actual need for such in each specific area is a waste of taxpayer dollars. Just because a need may exist in some areas, does not mean the need exists in all areas, and I believe it is irresponsible for the City to introduce sidewalks (or any additional infrastructure) in any area without clearly demonstrating that it is something that a specific neighbourhood wants and needs.

While accessibility is certainly something to give serious consideration, I do not believe that there is an existing accessibility problem on St Anthony Road. While there may not be sidewalks, pedestrians with and without mobility issues, cyclists, and scooter users share the road with the motorists, without incident. Local residents walk and cycle frequently through the entire neighbourhood day and evening, and they do so along the curb. As a quiet pedestrian neighbourhood, traffic moves at slower speeds. All residents know and expect there will be people walking along the side of the road and operate their vehicles accordingly.

I do not believe that the installation of sidewalks on St Anthony Road will increase the safety or accessibility within the neighbourhood, and believe that a sidewalk along one block, through one short segment of the neighbourhood will receive little use, as people will likely remain on the street regardless.

Additionally, winter maintenance of the proposed sidewalks creates a significant concern, as the winter maintenance of municipal sidewalks within smaller residential subdivisions in the City of London is given low priority, and is often poor at best. In nearby residential areas with sidewalks, pedestrians often choose to walk on the road due to the poor and icy conditions of the sidewalks in the winter, rendering these sidewalks useless. Further to this, there are often many issues in the spring in regard to displaced sod and grass adjacent to residential properties, due to less than diligent sidewalk winter maintenance.

The installation of sidewalks along St Anthony Road will also significantly adversely impact the parking capacity of our driveway, reducing our four car driveway to a two car driveway. As a multi-generational home with 3 (soon to be 4) vehicles, as well as 2 boats, the reduction in our parking will pose a significant issue, as we will be forced to store our boats off property, paying storage fees, as well as being inconvenienced by not having them easily available for our use. One of the main reasons we purchased this home over 20 years ago was the ample on site parking availability provided by a driveway unobstructed by sidewalks. This loss will not only be costly and inconvenient for our family, but I believe it will also adversely impact the property value of my home.

Further to this, it is my understanding that retrofitting a sidewalk through my existing concrete driveway may actually cause premature deterioration, as saw-cutting through the steel reinforcement will reduce longevity, and create potential for excessive heave and cracking.

We, just as everyone in this neighbourhood, take great pride in our property and I am frustrated that the City has planned to implement a feature without having a clear and

concise understanding of the specific need for such in this neighbourhood. There was no comprehensive consultation for this feature - simply a blanket approach applied.

I remain convinced that the proposed sidewalk would not significantly increase the safety or accessibility for people within our community, and would instead result in significant environmental and social impact with little to no benefit to the community as a whole.

I firmly object to the City of London imposing unnecessary and unrequested infrastructure upon myself and my neighbourhood, and as a rate-payer, I believe that funds would be better allocated towards repairing failing municipal infrastructure elsewhere, such as repaving or reconstructing Hyde Park Road south of Riverside.

Regards,

Jodie Lucente

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