

Steve,

We've just learned the City is planning a road reconstruction project on St Anthony Rd. The Project Notice indicates water mains and catch basins are to be replaced, and a sidewalk installed.

We are opposed to the installation of sidewalks in the neighbourhood as they are not needed, they will negatively impact the character of the neighbourhood and will have a negative impact on the environment. Sidewalk installation is counter to the intent of the City's August 2016 Tree Protection Bylaw and its April 2019 Climate Emergency declaration.

#### Neighbourhood impact

Over thirty years ago we chose Hazelden South for our home because of the "look and feel" of the neighbourhood. It is small and quiet with mature trees everywhere, streets light at night by front yard pole lights instead of streetlights, and no sidewalks. It doesn't look or feel like most city subdivisions. Installation of sidewalks replaces mature trees, grass and other greenery with concrete eliminating one of the features that make the neighbourhood unique.

#### Need

There is no through traffic in the neighbourhood so, with the exception of the occasional tennis player headed to St Anthony Park, road users live here. Road traffic is light. The road surface is in good condition with few cracks or potholes. And in the winter months the road surface is comparable to the sidewalks in Hazelden North (north of Riverside Dr) for being ice and snow free.

Day and night people of all ages are comfortable walking on the streets in the neighbourhood. This includes people using canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One resident who moved into the neighbourhood a couple of years ago uses canes or a wheelchair. Clearly she, like I and every other neighbourhood resident do not feel sidewalks are needed or we would not have moved here.

#### Environmental Impact

Installation of a sidewalk will negatively impact the environment at installation and ongoing. Per the project documentation ten trees need to be removed for just the first phase of the project. While we don't know which trees will be removed it is safe to assume many will be at least as old as the neighbourhood, if not older. Even if new trees are planted in their place this still represents a significant loss of tree cover for many years. This is inconsistent with the City's stated goal of increasing tree cover in the Forest City. It will also have a clear and immediate negative impact on neighbourhood appeal.

The City has also declared a climate emergency and is looking to reduce environmental impact including reducing greenhouse gases. The initial phase of the project will eliminate a number of mature trees that today absorb carbon dioxide. It will pave over carbon dioxide absorbing lawns and gardens with concrete.

And once installed the City will plow the sidewalk each time it snows. An ongoing generation of additional greenhouse gas and expense to the city.

Steve, for the reasons noted we are opposed to the installation of sidewalks in the Hazelden South neighbourhood. We hope you agree and will work to eliminate the sidewalk component of the St Anthony Road reconstruction project.

Mike and Denise Kernohan