

Dear Councillor Lehman

I am writing in opposition to installing sidewalks on St. Anthony Rd, which is in your ward. I have signed a petition which I believe included the attached letter.

I have not personally received any formal notification of this plan and am unaware of any rationale for the installation of sidewalks.

We moved to this neighborhood about 8 years ago. Some of the things that attracted us to this neighborhood were absence of streetlights and sidewalks, mature trees, a quiet road that was not a thoroughfare.

We moved here into a large home that would accommodate both my family and my parents. My parents are in the 80s and no longer able to care for themselves. Both have had strokes and use walkers. In every season except winter, they routinely walk through the neighborhood.

Like my parents, many people walk through this neighborhood. We know of at least a few friends who walk through the neighborhood even though they do not live here.

To me, installing sidewalks is completely unnecessary. If you have any substantial evidence of the need for sidewalks, please send it to me.

I have never seen any vehicle speeding through the neighborhood or violating stop signs. I have never heard of any pedestrian being struck by a vehicle. I have never heard anyone in the neighborhood express the desire for sidewalks. My parents have never felt unsafe or had any issues walking using walkers.

I have seen people walking in this neighborhood at all times of the year - including winter - with no issues. I have seen cars routinely driving under the speed limit. I have seen cars slowing down and even stopping for pedestrians.

In addition to the lack of need, sidewalks would fundamentally alter the feel and beauty of the neighborhood. It would require cutting down many trees. Mature trees of the size that characterize this neighborhood should be preserved, not cut down. It takes generations for trees of this size to mature. I do not want to see this beautiful aspect of the neighborhood removed to install sidewalks that are unnecessary.

I welcome any response or feedback.

Graham Reid