

Dear Civic Works Committee,

I was unfortunately unable to attend the committee meeting on February 9th to discuss the proposed sidewalks on Abbey Rise and Friar's Way. However it has since come to my attention that you may be using the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11>) as justification for a city-wide policy to ensure that sidewalks are included with every road works project. I took a look at this legislation and Reg. 191/11 Part IV.1, sub-sections 80.21 to 80.31 appear to be the relevant parts:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/110191#BK120>

This section details accessibility requirements for building a new sidewalk or walkway, or rebuilding an existing sidewalk or walkway. However neither this section or any other part of the statute or regulation I was able to find mandates that a sidewalk is to be included with either new road construction or existing road maintenance projects. Is there another piece of legislation that lays out this requirement?

It does not surprise me that the AODA does not specify a requirement for grade-separated roadside walkways, because much like for other pedestrians, for individuals with mobility issues, sidewalks are a poor second-best option to using a safe, well-paved roadway. I expect that no-one with mobility issues wants to navigate a grade separation if they don't have to, even if the mitigating measures of the AODA are in place.

I understand that there are concerns about making repeated exceptions to city policy, however in this case I believe it is city policy that is flawed, and needs to be reconsidered. This isn't an issue that is limited to the Sherwood Forest neighbourhood, there are many streets and neighbourhoods in London that have a similarly healthy existing relationship between cars and pedestrians. I believe that continuing to enact this policy city-wide would damage that relationship, and cause long-lasting damage to the quality of life in this city.

As a final note, I'll leave you with this thought: Sidewalks are not pedestrian infrastructure, they are car infrastructure. They serve only to remove pedestrians from what should be a shared space, in order to let cars get from point A to point B more quickly.

Thanks for your time, and your careful consideration of this issue.

Mike Cole

3 Foxchapel Road

Please include this note on the added agenda for the meeting of Feb 9 regarding item 2.6.

I would like to register my objection to the plan to install sidewalks on Abbey Rise and Friar's Way. As a Sherwood Forest resident, I make frequent use of these streets for both walking and running. These are quiet streets with very little vehicle traffic and frequent pedestrian traffic. Drivers in the neighbourhood are well used to seeing pedestrians on the road, and always drive accordingly. Relegating pedestrians to a sidewalk will only serve to discourage this sense of caution, and will render the neighbourhood as a whole less safe for pedestrians.

If your goal is to make this neighbourhood more pedestrian-friendly, these actions will have the opposite effect. Please reconsider.

Mike Cole

3 Foxchapel Road