

March 16, 2021

To: The Chair and Members of the City Council

Re: Friars Way and Doncaster Place Reconstruction/Abbey Rise Reconstruction

Request: Sidewalk exemption realizing the important benefits and value of London's mature tree canopy to meet more than one guideline set forth in the "London Plan".

To the Chair and Members.

I want to be respectful of your time and commitment in reviewing the documentation that hopefully has been forwarded to you from our Friars Way /Doncaster Place/Doncaster Rd/Scarlet Ave and Abbey Rise presentation to the CWC. This would include our full presentation along with letters from delegates and residents. I feel we were not awarded due diligence in this process.

Our presentation was fact-based and professionally presented to show CWC council there is "A BETTER WAY". Additional residents spoke, just wanting their voices heard in terms of their personal challenges and how they continue to feel safe on our current shared streets as they exist.

We are disputing the prescribed removal of up to (and perhaps more) than 71 trees in just the proposed sidewalk installation on Friars Way. Our presentation provided evidence on the value of finding a BETTER WAY rather than face the devastation to our canopy, loss of value of our mature trees not to mention the reversal of our contribution to Global Warming strategies.

In a perfect world, we would like to be barrier-free. Understanding, council must view guidelines set out in the London Plan, Complete Streets Manual, London Climate Action Plan and Tree Protection Plan at the same time are compelled to weigh out the safest and best approach to providing best practices and solutions. We may not be able to meet each objective 100%, but at the very least, we can put our best efforts forward with common sense approaches that provide a safe and practical environment for all while saving our trees.

Doug McCrae confirmed at the CWC council meeting the interpretation of AODA guidelines are vague to say the least.

I am confident that our presentation confirms we do not have existing barriers other than unmaintained sidewalks here on Wychwood and Lawson Roads. My 87-year-old mother who has been with me since last February due to Covid and walks with me daily. Neighbours often see her walking safely on the roadway, alone when I am working. During the winter months we continue to walk however for safety reasons, we are forced to walk on the road as sidewalks are not safe for anyone due to the ice, snow, and freezing water. I have attached photos of the sidewalks along with photos of pedestrians and vehicles safely sharing the roadway here on Friars Way, Doncaster and Wychwood. In my 23 years as a resident here on Friars Way, I walk daily and have always witnessed vehicle-pedestrian-mobility aided family, friends and neighbours moving without incident.

We are asking for sidewalk exemption. Kindly refer to a copy of my original letter forwarded to CWC that should be in the package.

Patti MacLennan- Resident on Friars