

i want to express my support for the full Whitehills Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan. While the Civic Works Committee passed a motion that excluded the Edgehill portion of this proposal, I encourage Council to reconsider and endorse the original plan.

Full credit to those who have discussed this plan with people living on Edgehill. But the impact of the sidewalks goes far beyond the few people living on that street who were consulted. It affects the broader community including others in the neighbourhood, like me, as well as those who visit the area. And 20 years from now, when many of the current residents have moved on, the impact will be felt by future generations.

We often talk about "active transportation" and encouraging kids walk to school with all of its associated benefits. Well, here is a concrete way we can help that. Sidewalks will make these streets safer for kids heading to Emily Carr. It is literally two blocks away. Or the nearby store. Or the baseball diamonds. Or the park. There's lots of young kids and strollers that would walk these streets with their family if they were safer. Why wouldn't we do everything we can to protect them? Not to mention, those simply walking to pick up their mail or get some exercise or walking the dog.

Residents have been so concerned about speeding that the City has installed speed humps and reduced speed zones throughout this area. Sidewalks will only help further reduce speed and increase road safety.

What is the point of accessibility policies, active transportation mandates, the Climate Emergency Action Plan, Age Friendly London Action Plan and the London Plan when a few residents can loudly voice opposition for self-interested reasons and get their way. Inconsistent exemptions like this will further undermine these policies.

I urge you to support the full Whitehills Connectivity Plan.

Thanks

John McCullagh