

Date: April 24, 2019 at 8:36:02 AM EDT
To: <shawna.stolte@burlington.ca>
Subject: Yes to sidewalks on Strathcona

Good Morning Councillor Stolte,

I understand last night's vote on sidewalks on Strathcona is delayed.

I'm writing to encourage council to vote in favour of installing sidewalks on Strathcona Dr. because the safety of our residents supersedes all other factors.

I'm a resident on Melba Lane and myself, my wife and two children are on Strathcona frequently. Sidewalks will increase our safety during our walks and as my children visit friends - as they will for all residents in our area. As an example, the safety we experience when walking to Glen Afton park while using the recently added sidewalks on Belvenia is very real.

I understand that 'I don't want this', 'I bought on this street because there wasn't sidewalks' and 'It hurts the aesthetics of the street' are factors to be considered; however, the increase in safety is of far greater importance in this decision. Recent work on Goodram Dr. and Belvenia Rd. to add sidewalks are glowing examples of how safety and curb appeal can be balanced. I applaud council for listening to residents concerns and making changes to plans such as using more of the roadway and less of residents' yards for the proposed construction of sidewalks on Strathcona. Unfortunately, arguments like the road is safer to walk on than the sidewalk, and others, are noise which distract from both logical and emotive reasons to construct the sidewalks.

A key tenant of leadership is the ability to make difficult decisions - including ones in which there may be resistance. In this case the safety and needs of our citizens are more important than the view from one's front yard. This is an opportunity for council to demonstrate their leadership and do what is right for our community now and in the future.

Please share my email with council.

Regards,
Scott If