

**Sent:** April 24, 2019 8:08:33 AM

**To:** 'Sam Weller'; Mailbox, CRM; Stolte, Shawna; Mailbox, CRM; Galbraith, Kelvin; Mailbox, CRM; Kearns, Lisa; Mailbox, CRM; Nisan, Rory; Mailbox, CRM; Mailbox, CRM; Sharman, Paul; Mailbox, CRM; Bentivegna, Angelo

**Cc:** Jurk, Bob; Palermo, Lisa; 'Don Matthews'; 'Sam Weller'; 'Mat Cooke'; Patricia Doyle

**Subject:** Council Meeting April 25th Strathcona Drive area proposed sidewalks (TS-05-19)

Good morning Madam Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for listening to our local concerns about the proposed narrowed redesign of Strathcona Drive and the addition of sidewalks.

I write today in counterpoint to the two minor delegations in favour of the proposed sidewalk option so there is no confusion and you can reasonably reject them. It is instructive to note that the delegations ran 82% to 18% AGAINST the sidewalk option.

Please consider what you heard last night:

1. A delegation from those with a self-serving, Toronto-based, pro cycling agenda and who want to make a name for themselves in a new area and are attempting to do it in a community other than their own. Strathcona Gardens is not the Tuck School area. That area has its own play areas for young children if that's the reason they are against the community.
2. Or those who contrive a roundabout route to play in Strathcona Park and complain. Rather than walk on long-existing sidewalks all the way down Spruce and Belvenia, they instead travel along Strathcona, Lorraine, the access walk, the crowded St. Raphael parking lot and the ball park to get to Strathcona Park, which is immediately adjacent to Belvenia. This is apparently only to further their activist agenda and invent a safety problem where none exists.
3. Or those who recently chose Strathcona as it is and now want to change it. And who also say that it is a unique roadway in South Burlington to be without sidewalks, conveniently forgetting about Poplar, Henderson, Wilson in the immediate area and Wilton, Lakeview and Lakeside – all similar in their communities. Strathcona is not unique, but a proud sample of the best of South Burlington.
4. And those who mistakenly think it is compelling that pedestrians choose sidewalks on Spruce, over the roadway, when those sidewalks were part of the original design and have been there since the beginning. Of course pedestrians walk on long standing sidewalks.
5. And who also think that no one walks on the road on Belvenia, rather than the new sidewalk, when in fact they do. I do because the sidewalk is too narrow, especially in winter.

I believe that your choice on Thursday is more clear than it was last night. The well researched, well documented and honest "No Sidewalks" presentations were fact-based and community spirited. Exactly what you want to know about your constituents.

Reject the sidewalks on Strathcona and put that money to good use elsewhere. Perhaps invest it into environmental/climate change infrastructure according to the emergency declaration passed last night. Please listen to the large majority of your constituents in the area and vote against sidewalks on Strathcona. This issue may be a small matter in the global scheme of things but it is “environmental change” to us. You will be making Burlington more liveable for the people who live in this Burlington community. We deserve your support.

For the record, I attach the presentation I made last night before you. See you 9:00am Thursday in the council chambers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Ruta  
4075 Hilton Avenue  
Burlington

**Jim Ruta** BA RHU