
DELEGATION AGAINST CITY PROPOSED SIDEWALKS

Andrea Louca-Ricci



- Good morning Chair and Members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Louca-Ricci and I live on [REDACTED] I have lived at this address for 10 years with my husband, young daughter and 3 dogs, however this neighborhood has been a second home for much longer as my aunt has lived here since the 80's.
- I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. Before I start I want to thank you and staff for all you do for our City and a special thank you to Councilor Sharman for his continued support throughout this process and over the last number of years.
- I also want to thank my neighbours that were able to attend this meeting in person. I appreciate that many of our neighbours are working and it's difficult to secure time off after being off for the holidays. They have been engaged however, by signing petitions and emailing city officials with their concerns.
- I am speaking to you today to share the implications of infill sidewalk installation on our home and in our area on Linwood Crescent, Maureen Court and Bromley Road, and ask that you please vote against any infill installations in our area.



AGENDA

- Introduction
 - We **DO NOT WANT** infill sidewalks
 - We **DO NOT NEED** infill sidewalks
 - Trees and greenspace will be **ELIMINATED and AT RISK**
 - Infill will change **HOW WE LIVE**
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- My agenda for this delegation is to first provide you with some background about me and my values, then cover 4 key reasons why we should not be installing any new sidewalks in our area.
- First, residents do not want new sidewalks given the many implications, as evident from the petitions submitted to the City.
- Second, we do not need new infill sidewalks
- Third, trees and greenspace will be eliminated and at risk
- Fourth, this infill will change how we live, aside from the disruption of the construction it will impact our landscapes, driveways, on street parking, changing how we live in our area

INTRODUCTION

- Spearheaded **Bromley Park (217 Maureen Court)** updates – usability and mobility
- Strong advocate against proposed **St Patrick school re-location to New St** – travel safety



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- I am approaching this delegation as someone that cares about the community, about accessibility, safety and vulnerable populations.
- I am no stranger to advocating in the community for changes that make sense or against changes that don't make sense.
- I spearheaded Bromley Park updates in partnership with my neighbour Wendy Moraghan and with support of Councillor Sharman. You can see from the before and after pictures the park was not accessible or usable by many. Because of this initiative, and support from the City, Bromley Park is now more accessible and usable as a neighborhood hub. Ironically, we made the park more accessible but with the proposed sidewalk installation on Bromley and Maureen, it actually REMOVES ALL street parking close to the park which makes it less accessible.
- I also had a strong voice against the proposed St Patrick school re-location to New St back in 2016 due to health and travel safety concerns. Thankfully the trustees voted against this.
- I am a member of the Halton Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee and Bullying Prevention Committee, where I advocate for safety, accessibility, and accommodations
- Now that you understand a bit about some of my values I'd like to lead into the reasons why we should not install infill sidewalks on Linwood, Maureen and Bromley

WE DO NOT WANT SIDEWALKS

94% of homeowners signed petitions
against infill sidewalks:

- Destroys mature **tree canopy**
- Endangers mature tree **root systems**
- Drastically changes how we use our **driveways and properties**
- Damages well-established **landscapes**

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First reason to vote against infill sidewalks is that the vast majority of homeowners without sidewalks today do not want them.

Purpose of Petitions:

We do not want the City of Burlington to install sidewalks on either side of Linwood Crescent, Bromley Road, or Maureen Court. They will destroy our mature tree canopy, endanger our mature tree root systems, drastically change how we use our driveways and properties, and damage our well-established landscapes.

Action(s) being requested:

We request the committee/council/officials with decision making authority to not approve the installation of new sidewalks on these streets.

- Overall, of all homes without sidewalks today on Linwood, Maureen Ct and Bromley road, 94% of homeowners petitioned against sidewalks (3 petitions).
- The Linwood Crescent petition was signed by 45 owners and residents from all 23 homes abutting Linwood Crescent. We have 100% agreement that we do not want any new sidewalks on either side installed on Linwood Crescent.
- The Bromley Road and Maureen Court petition was signed by 38 owners and residents from 19 of 20 homes abutting Bromley Road from Linwood Crescent to 5109 Bromley Road, and

Maureen Court. These are all the houses south of Bayfield Crescent to Linwood Crescent without sidewalks today (sidewalks begin beyond these houses towards White Pines Drive). We have 95% agreement that we do not want any new sidewalks on either side installed on these street segments.

- Another petition was created for Bromley beyond Bayfield to Cheltenham signed with 88% agreement (22/25)
- Public meeting attendance of approximately 60 with overall sentiment against the sidewalks

WE DO NOT NEED SIDEWALKS

- We don't have a **mobility or connectivity** problem
- We've all adapted to **sharing the road**
- Adding sidewalks on roads will **remove parking, create bottlenecks and decrease park accessibility**

RECOMMENDATION:
If vehicles are the concern
Invest in Radar Sign(s)



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The second reason to vote against infill sidewalks on Linwood, Maureen and Bromley is that we do not need them.

- We are well under the 30 dwelling warrant threshold on Linwood and Maureen
- Current situation doesn't inhibit mobility – road is smoother than sidewalks. Easier to use the road with bikes, walkers and other mobility devices. It is a very walkable and connected environment where families can easily walk together.
- Sidewalks either into the greenspace or the road, with 6 feet width – are both not good scenarios. If narrowing the road we lose street parking, and gain multiple no parking signs, it's more dangerous for bike riders, less space for leaves or snow, creates a bottleneck for passing when people or cars are stopped, people aren't used to the narrowness so the inconstancy of widths of road is not good etc. People with dogs, and we have a lot of them, will likely still walk on road so that their dogs can walk on the side of the road with a grass boulevard vs sidewalk
- In the case of Bromley Park that was a mobility issue. We were missing a usable pathway and lacking connection. We had a problem to solve, which we don't have in this situation. We are not missing anything. Narrowing the roads will actually remove street parking making the park less accessible than it is today.
- If vehicles are the concern then consider installing a radar sign where required.
- For over 60 years, our neighborhood has developed and endured without any sidewalks on these street segments. Our neighbours enjoy and prefer the aesthetics of the neighborhood without sidewalks. Walkers, cyclists and motorists have adapted to everyone sharing the

road. We also believe this shared use has helped to reduce vehicle speeds.

- We are already a walkable and connected neighborhood without the sidewalks.

TREES AND GREEN SPACES WILL BE ELIMINATED OR AT RISK

- Contradicts City's Tree protection requirements
- Eliminates mature trees
- Damages root systems
- Replaces grass with concrete
- Decreases water/nutrient absorption due to concrete
- Pushes salt and dirt into / closer to our gardens

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The third reason to vote against infill sidewalks is that trees and green spaces will be eliminated or at risk.

- There are a number of trees at risk due to elimination, root damage or decreased water and nutrient absorption
- City requirements for tree protection is to protect tree roots within a minimum tree protection zone which won't be possible given how close the sidewalks will be to the trunks of the trees and within drip lines
- For the land around our home alone, at least one of the options recommends approximately 1200 square feet of grass be replaced with concrete. That square footage falls within or close to the drip lines of many trees
- Adding the concrete will decrease water and nutrient absorption and where the sidewalks are added to the boulevard vs the road it will push salt and dirt into or closer to our gardens



INFILL CHANGES HOW WE LIVE

- We purchased homes at a premium **WITHOUT sidewalks!**
- Park-like experience that enhances **quality of life is diminished** with the proposed changes
- **Decreases privacy** and changes how we use our front/side yards
- **Destroys landscapes** we lovingly maintain that add value
- Negatively changes how several of us can use our **driveways**
- **Removes street parking and narrows streets** in areas creating safety hazards

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The fourth reason to vote against infill sidewalks is that it changes how we live.

- We paid a premium to live here without sidewalks, with mature trees and charming green landscapes
- This visual of Linwood Crescent at the corner of Bromley is just one example based on staff recommended option 4A to help illustrate the impacts in one situation but my neighbours are impacted in various ways.
- The red lines show approximate placement of sidewalks, not the width – width would be wider at 6 feet (on the lawn, to the road on Linwood).
- You can't tell easily from the picture as there are no leaves however the new sidewalks would fall within or close to the drip line of many mature trees, which put important roots at risk and block water and nutrient absorption that the trees have been accustomed to for their entire lives.
- Given the nature of being a corner lot (like many other impacted lots), we have a side yard, front porch and two front patios and now pedestrians will be 6 feet closer, decreasing our privacy across a length of approximately 150 feet
- The narrowed road on Bromley creates safety hazards with narrower roads – This narrows the road width on Bromley which makes it a very tight turn and curve making it more dangerous for us to back out of the driveways on both sides of Bromley. It is harder to cycle or drive around stopped cars, leaves, snow etc.
- We lose 70 parking spots on Bromley and 4 on Maureen. People do drive to Bromley Park and

will no longer be able to park anywhere close by.

- In this case it damages irrigation, fencing, expensive hardscaping (and driveway in Options 1 & 2)
- Can put a slip and slide out front now, however in future it would be next to a sidewalk



VOTE AGAINST ALL INFILL SIDEWALK INSTALLATIONS THANK YOU

Andrea Louca-Ricci

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- This concludes my delegation. Please help us preserve the trees and character of the area. As you can see we enjoy the neighborhood as it is – we walk and ride our bikes freely and with confidence, sharing the road with everyone.
- We count on you to make the right decision, which is to vote against all infill sidewalk installations on Linwood Crescent, Maureen Court and Bromley Road.
- Thank you