

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the
Council Meeting for Public
Hearings held on Tuesday,
February 25, 2014.

To Planning Committee
Feb. 4 2014
re: Ham #2 - Hamilton Area Plan

Richmond City Hall

January 30, 2014

To whom it may concern:

After talking to people coming into the area as well as local residents, I have received 100% positive feedback on a boardwalk, gravel or paved walkway along the river side of River Road near Westminster Highway. People like a short distance between themselves and the residences. They also like being along the water side of River Road as it makes them feel safer and more relaxed.

When asked about a boardwalk style walkway over the existing ditch on the residential side of River Road, the residents felt it was better than having people walking on the road; however travelers did not find the idea very appealing. They want to be where they could watch the wildlife and have an unobstructed view of the river.

Either side of the road would work to continue the pathway around Richmond but from a construction point of view the water side pathway would be easier to construct and more appealing to both the community and visitors.

I looked at the river side of River Road from Pump House #5 to the end of the dyke and found there was approximately 12 to 15 feet to work with for such a walkway.

Considering traffic flow on River Road from where the Queens Canal walkway would meet the road by Pump House #5, the road traffic needs to be slower for the pedestrian's safety. The simplest and least expensive way to provide a safe environment for both pedestrians and drivers, would most likely be 2 speed bumps set for 30-40 Km/h on each side of a new crosswalk approximately 20 feet back. This would encourage drivers to allow the pedestrian traffic to cross safely since they are already slowing for the speed bumps.

As for the proposed extension of Willet Ave. to River Road, the community and visitors do not wish the project to go through as it would increase traffic backups in front of their homes. At the moment, without the increase in traffic to the community, we already get the traffic backups to the train bridge on River Road. On frequent Fridays and bad weather days and it is much worse. If there is an accident on any of the bridges, especially the Queensborough or Alex Fraser Bridge the backup can last for up to 5 hours. This traffic backup can have a driver taking as long as 1-2 hours to travel a distance that would normally take them 20 minutes. This can cause driver frustration and lead to potentially more accidents as well as road rage.

With the roadway continuing as it currently is, it continues to allow for the clearing of pollutants from vehicles due to the constant breeze which blows along the water. This fact becomes much clearer when you look at the number of residents living into their 90's in comparison to people that live in denser areas.

Sincerely,



C. Surmik

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REC'D
FRIDAY, JAN 31, 2014