

# MM24.7.1

**From:** [Pam \(imap\)](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Cc:** [dylan.reid@walktoronto.ca](mailto:dylan.reid@walktoronto.ca)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2020.MM24.7 on September 30, 2020 City Council  
**Date:** October 1, 2020 9:42:14 PM

---

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the September 30, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.MM24.7, Installation of sidewalks on Coldstream Avenue and South Kingslea Drive - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

**To:** Toronto City Council  
**Re:** MM24.7, Installation of sidewalks on Coldstream Avenue and South Kingslea Drive - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes

Oct. 1, 2020

I am writing to you as a resident of Etobicoke and on behalf of Walk Toronto, to express our deep concern regarding motion, MM24.7, titled "Installation of sidewalks on Coldstream Avenue and South Kingslea Drive" from Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes. We urge City Council to vote against this motion.

The motion is asking Council to block the routine installation of sidewalks on the two streets named, which currently do not have sidewalks on them and are scheduled for major road reconstruction.

The motion asks Council to act against its own missing sidewalks policy. The missing sidewalks policy was approved by Council on July 16, 2019 as part of the Vision Zero 2.0, Road Safety Plan Update (IE6.8 Attachment 2).

To quote from the Missing Sidewalks Installation Policy, "Sidewalks are critical transportation infrastructure to support a safe, accessible and walkable city. This policy enables the City of Toronto to install sidewalks where they are missing to remove barriers to accessibility, complete gaps in Toronto's walking network, and help all residents and visitors connect to transit, schools, and other neighbourhood amenities".

We are very concerned by the fact that this motion asks council to bypass its own agreed-upon procedures as set out in July 2019, whereby a councillor who wants to

circumvent the delegated authority given to the Manager of Transportation Services is directed to send a motion to Infrastructure and Environment Committee. Contrary to the statement in the motion, some residents of the area are in favour of installing sidewalks, and the issue deserves a full airing where members of the public can make their case.

Councillor Colle's and Grimes' motion is also in contravention of the City's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan which Council unanimously supported in 2019. As well, it contravenes a number of other long held and related policies, plans, and strategies of the City of Toronto, including the advice of the City of Toronto's Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (2016), which voted unanimously to support the installation of sidewalks where they are missing, as well as Toronto's Official Plan, which identifies universally accessible sidewalks in all parts of the city as key infrastructure in the transportation network.

The motion also contravenes important provincial legislation such as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The AODA speaks to the removal of barriers that prevent a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society. Sidewalks remove barriers to mobility and allow persons with disabilities to move more safely in their own communities. They are vitally important pieces of pedestrian infrastructure.

This notice of motion is not a matter in which there is urgency. In the case of South Kingslea Drive, major reconstruction work is scheduled for the summer of 2021. The project is still in its early stages and months away from tendering, according to staff. There is no timeline-related reason to go straight to council.

Furthermore the proposed sidewalks on South Kingslea Drive are strongly supported by many residents of the area, who are circulating a petition to have the sidewalks built. While the residents of the street itself may not be totally in favour of the new sidewalks, they are not necessarily representative of the community at large and are not at this point even fully informed since the design stage has not been reached. Any concerns that exist about damage to street trees and landscaping will likely be put to rest by the relatively few trees affected, the city's policy of protecting its urban forest and its commitment to work with homeowners to mitigate damage arising from construction. This stage of the project is still months away.

We note that South Kingslea Drive is on the route to Park Lawn Jr. Middle School, and the installation of the sidewalk would make the route to school safer for the many Park Lawn students who live in the area. This is in keeping with the City's Vision Zero Road Safety plan, which prioritizes streets in the vicinity of schools.

The new sidewalks would also provide a safety buffer to seniors and those with mobility challenges who live in the area and want to be able to walk through their community safely, especially at night. By safely channeling pedestrians onto the sidewalks, and reducing competition for shared road space, cyclists would also benefit from the addition of sidewalks.

We note as well that **the public has not had a chance to delegate or submit opinions on this item as it has bypassed the committee stage.**

In summary, we ask that City Council reject this motion, to ensure that this issue gets the public input and discussion it deserves.

Thank you,

Pamela Gough

Former TDSB Trustee, Etobicoke Lakeshore

On behalf of Walk Toronto