

July 5, 2013

Via e-mail: clerks@greatersudbury.ca

Clerk's Services  
Tom Davies Square  
200 Brady Street  
Box 5000, Station A  
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

Re: Southview Drive Infrastructure Renewal Project  
On-going Safety / Speed Concerns

At the request and recommendation of Councillor Cimino, and on behalf of many Southview Drive residents, please consider this letter as an official request to present to the Operations Committee in regards to the upcoming infrastructure renewal initiatives scheduled for Southview Drive.

The purpose of the presentation is to present survey data and a civic petition which ultimately aims to review, discuss and include additional traffic calming initiatives for the scheduled renewal project. The petition identifies the need to provide a street layout that puts the safety of vulnerable users and residents first, that will reduce traffic speeds and that will deter aggressive driving behaviour. The petition was signed by 35 of 37 (95%) households surveyed, as well as many members of the Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel (SMAP). A brief survey was also completed for a section of the street (from 1458 to 1682 Southview), with 83% expressing ongoing concerns with aggressiveness, safety and traffic speed, amongst other. The presentation would provide an overview of the survey findings.

The City has a social responsibility for the welfare of its residents. This recent survey and a similar survey completed by the Healthy Community Initiative in 2009 identify that there are serious concerns for the general welfare of those residing on and actively using Southview Drive. In addition, residents living on the north side have recently lost door-to-door Canada Post delivery services due to safety concerns by the organisation. If Canada Post deems this road unsafe for its employees, why are there not any measures being considered for resident safety? Both Councillor Cimino and Parliament member Glenn Thibeault were involved in this discussion and can attest to the strong and numerous resident concerns.

In light of the upcoming infrastructure renewal project, there is an unquestionable opportunity to review the infrastructure and implement sound features to address the unhealthy condition of the street in a cost effective way. The measures being requested have already been supported by City Council in the past, and similar initiatives are taking place all over North America. For example, the Caldarelli-Cimino motion 011-260, identifies the need to consult active transportation documents for every infrastructure renewal project. The City has pledged to be pedestrian friendly by 2015. There is ample documentation on "complete streets" or one can refer to groups such as the Green Communities Canada.

Communication and dialogue is necessary to ensure this renewal project addresses current concerns. 22 of 36 people surveyed expressed an interest in creating a Southview Drive Resident Discussion Group to see what can be done as citizens (this large interest does not even include residents West of 1682 Southview). A future step for the group is to communicate with the Greater Sudbury Police Service. However, we also need City commitment, and until recently and to the best of our knowledge, the renewal project was simply to reinstate the street as-is.

July 5, 2013

Southview Drive Infrastructure Renewal Project

The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area school boards have identified 5 pillars for making active and sustainable school transportation a priority (which can be easily linked to better, healthier communities). With consideration to the nearby elementary school and the trend to make children more active, Southview is the perfect City street to implement these pillars, seeing as it is used by a large and diverse group of people. The pillars are (the first pillar which can only be addressed by the City):

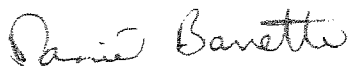
- Engineering: Creating operational and physical improvements to infrastructure in and around schools that reduce speeds and potential conflicts with motor vehicle traffic and establish more accessible crossings, walkways, trails and bikeways (*The Southview crossing to access Hélène-Gravel is extremely problematic during peak hours*)
- Education: Teaching children and parents about a broad range of transportation choices; building walking and cycling safety skills; holding safety campaigns around schools
- Enforcement: Ensuring traffic laws in school zones are obeyed; initiating crossing guard programs
- Encouragement: Promoting walking and cycling through activities and events
- Evaluation: Monitoring and documenting outcomes and trends through data collection before and after interventions

There is also a strong potential economic benefit to the City. By improving Southview Drive, there is bound to be an increase in property investments and land value, consequently increasing property taxes. This is supported by recent housing and property turnover that have seen many young families move to the area.

Residents of Southview look forward to a favourable response from your office and to the opportunity of discussing the above information with the leaders of our City.

On behalf of those surveyed, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Daniel Barrette

Enclosures;

CC: Mayor Marianne Matichuk – City of Greater Sudbury  
Councillor Joe Cimino – Ward 1 City of Greater Sudbury  
Glenn Thibeault – Parliament Member  
Carol Craig – Sudbury & District Health Unit  
Samantha Baulch – SMAP Chair  
Southview residents – survey participants