

From: Kate McMahon [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 10:25 AM
To: LegislativeServices <LegislativeServices@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Sidewalk expansion/tree canopy concerns

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Hello

I would like to bring to the Environmental Committee's attention an apparent gap between the City's Sidewalk Expansion program, Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Action Framework.

I am highly supportive of the Sidewalk Expansion Program, but have become aware that in the name of active transportation and climate action, a significant number of mature trees are to be felled. I have attached the plan for 2 blocks of Union Street which show that *every single* tree on the south side of the street is to be taken down to accommodate the sidewalk. (Note these trees are **not** to be replaced in this location as there is Telus infrastructure that apparently new trees would interfere with and there are new utility standards that must be adhered to.)

Full disclosure that this is my street. However, I am most concerned that if the current approach being taken to replacing trees with concrete is being applied citywide, how many mature trees are we losing in the name of climate action?

These trees that are to be removed are at least 50 years old. They provide significant shade, cooling the street in the summer. They provide habitat for important wildlife, like pollinators. They capture carbon and improve property value. At a time when we are facing extreme heat, a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis, replacing trees with concrete seems absurd. The city's tree replacement policy is great, but new trees take many years to contribute to the neighbourhood and environment the way a mature tree does and are difficult to successfully establish in our increasingly hot and dry summers. Every effort should be made to protect mature trees.

A few curves in the plan and/or a more thoughtful approach to planning sidewalks should certainly allow for preserving most of these trees.

I have been corresponding with Keera Wang, the project manager for this part of the project, who has been kind enough to answer my questions, but has not provided a reason why the sidewalk could not be designed to accommodate these trees or how many trees are being lost in this project altogether.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

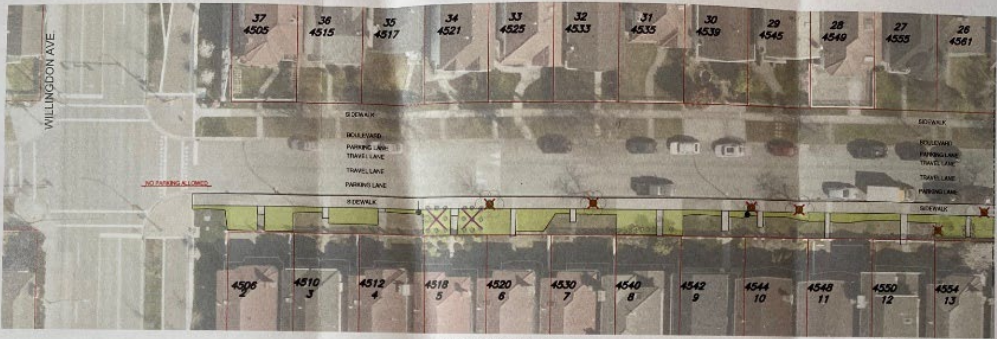
Sincerely

Kate

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Kate McMahon (she/her)

[REDACTED]
Living and working in the ancestral territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm̓ and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh speaking peoples



UNION STREET
PLAN
SCALE 1:500

TREES REMOVED = 6
TREES PLANTED = 0

D.L. 122



UNION STREET
PLAN
SCALE 1:500

TREES REMOVED = 9
TREES PLANTED = 0

D.L. 122

- LEGEND
- TREE TO BE REPLACED
 - ✕ TREE TO BE REMOVED
 - ✕ EXISTING TREE TO BE PRESERVED
 - TREE TO BE PLANTED
 - STREET LIGHT POLE
 - HATCHWAY
 - CONCRETE CURB & GULLY
 - TYPICAL MANHOLE
 - EXISTING MANHOLE
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK
 - PROPOSED SIDEWALK



NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY	CHKD.
1	ISSUED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW	11/20/17	JK	JK
2	ISSUED FOR NOTIFICATION LETTER	02/09/18	JK	JK



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

UNION STREET



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (2020-14)

SLIP	NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.
1	120	11/20/17	JK	JK
2	121	02/09/18	JK	JK

8022-01