

From:
To: [Legislative Services email](#)
Subject: Fwd: Need for sidewalks - Variance request 1535, 1537 Despard Avenue....V.2
Date: December 8, 2024 10:01:40 AM

From: Bill Rapanos
Date: December 6, 2024 at 2:54:20 PM PST
To: legislativeservices@victoria.ca
Subject: **Need for sidewalks - Variance request 1535, 1537 Despard Avenue**

To: Members of Council and staff

We request that the application to not construct required frontage works, ie. a sidewalk as part of the subdivision of the above properties Not be approved.

Despard Avenue has 27 lots fronting or flanking this block. Approximately 9 of the lots have been redeveloped with new homes in the past 25 or so years. All the remaining 18 lots are developed with older homes that will very likely be demolished when the current owners sell. None is on the Heritage Register. Some further subdivisions are likely. New sidewalks should be constructed incrementally with each new home and/ or subdivision as the block slowly continues to redevelop.

Despard Avenue is surprisingly heavily used by pedestrians, and students enroute to Glenlyon- Norfolk and Margaret Jenkins schools. At present there are no sidewalks at all and pedestrians must walk on the shared road also used by vehicles. Unfortunately, the boulevard on either side is not able to be used as a place to walk due to plantings, wet spots and irregular ground.

The south side of Despard, where we live, badly needs a separated sidewalk and it could be built there. I suggest a separated sidewalk so that at sometime in the future a new road pavement and curbs could be added if needed. Whether the new sidewalk is concrete or a softer permeable surface is not critical - either will do the job of providing a safe walking path. Even a limestone/ crushed rock walkway with the same fine gravel material used on the short walkway at the east end of Despard to link to Richmond would provide a safe walking surface off of the roadway. It might also be less disruptive to the boulevard tree roots than concrete.

Delaying construction of the required frontage works here sets a wrong precedent. It might be short sighted and will simply postpone the problem of inadequate sidewalks.

A proper walking network is an essential part of a good community. This block of Despard Avenue has proper connectivity to existing sidewalks on St. Charles and on Richmond at either end of this block.

Please help fill in this missing link in the sidewalk system. Walking is important!

We respectfully request that you deny this Variance Request.

Thank you,
Bill and Marilyn Rapanos
1555 Despard Avenue

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