

October 12, 2017

Michele Fairbairn and Susan Strega
1255 Kings Road
Victoria BC
V8T 4X2

To the Mayor and Council:

Re: Sidewalk on the Kings Road frontage of 2695 Capital Heights

We are the immediately adjacent neighbours (on the Kings Road side) of the planned new house at 2695 Capital Heights. While we are in full support of the application to build at this address, we are writing to indicate our very strong opposition to the current city-imposed requirement for the developer to build a 20 foot sidewalk on the Kings Road frontage.

The main reasons for our objection are as follows:

- We see no safety-related need for this sidewalk.
 - Kings Road dead ends at Cook Street. The address in question runs along a stretch of Kings Road that is currently very quiet. The roadway is currently safely shared by a variety of users, including pedestrians (sometimes with walkers), bicyclists and vehicles.
- We see no amenity or appearance-related need for this sidewalk – in fact, the opposite is true. If the developer is forced to install this “sidewalk to nowhere” against the wishes of the community, it will contribute to a probable patchwork of sidewalks along Kings Road.
 - A patchwork of sidewalks decreases safety and the current ease-of-use experienced by a variety of walkers (including Cridge tenants and children), and bicyclists, as these users will be forced to adjust to the sudden appearance (and then disappearance) of 20 feet of sidewalk.
 - The developer has indicated his willingness to use the funds that would be dedicated to sidewalk installation and instead contribute these to beautification and increased safety in the neighbourhood, for example, by installing plantings or street art.
- The City of Victoria should not impose a requirement for sidewalks in a neighbourhood where they are demonstrably not wanted by those who occupy the neighbourhood as homeowners and tenants.
 - The imposition of a sidewalk will not contribute in any material way to the safety or attractiveness of the neighbourhood.

We are therefore asking, in concert with our neighbours, for the City to declare a moratorium on the construction of sidewalks in the specified area so that the neighbourhood might instead continue with an existing neighbourhood-driven process to develop a sidewalk-free alternative.

Susan Strega and Michele Fairbairn
Sent via email