

From: [Peter Jung](#)
To: [Bannister, Anne](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Eaton, Jack](#); [Allen, Jane \(Engineering\)](#); [Hutchinson, Nicholas](#); [Beaudry, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Objections to Barton Drive Sidewalk
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Thank you so much for your assistance, Anne and Jeff.

We, at 527 Barton Drive, oppose the sidewalk installation, as currently envisioned by City of Ann Arbor Staff.

City Staff has repeatedly sent confusing, often contradictory, and occasionally incorrect information to City residents, who are now expected to pay for the sidewalk installations.

Why now?

Why can't the process wait until after the Pandemic has ended?

One of the affected neighbors has been stuck in Canada for over a month and still cannot return home to Ann Arbor for the foreseeable future.

The other affected neighbors are retired, elderly, and are on fixed incomes; fearful of exposure to Covid-19, these folks are understandably afraid to even answer their doorbells when I attempt to visit.

How are we to build consensus during a Pandemic?

It is crazy to even *remotely pretend* that the residents affected by the sidewalk installation have had the time or ability to coordinate our resistance and express our concerns and doubts to City Staff regarding the City's sidewalk installation plan.

And, how are my neighbors -- whose front yards will get plowed-up and trees removed, and then get stuck with astronomical bills for sidewalks we do not want -- supposed to believe, with a straight face, that City Staff have done their due diligence vis-a-vis the sidewalk installation when the neighborhood most-directly affected by the planned sidewalk installation are unable to even meet to discuss our strategy?

Tell us: How much external funding does City Staff typically secure for other similar projects?

What is the typical proportion paid by property owners versus the City of Ann Arbor versus external sources of funding?

What is the percentage of sidewalk installation in the City of Ann Arbor is typically borne by residents? What fraction of this amount is typically paid by the City of Ann Arbor? What fraction of this amount is typically paid with Federal, State, or other sources or grants?

And how does that amount compare to the amount of burden that the small handful of residents will have to pay for the sidewalk?

The City of Ann Arbor Staff can start considering such a sidewalk installation project **only** when **they** (City Staff) has drummed up the same proportion of external funding for our sidewalks as is typical for other City projects.

The City of Ann Arbor is asking a small handful of residents to pay for an unneeded and unwanted sidewalk during a pandemic? In this time of expected budget shortfalls, why doesn't the City consider spending the sidewalk money on, instead, upon purchasing more N-95 masks for law enforcement and the fire service?

Why do we need this now? We don't want it and we cannot afford to pay for it, then postpone it.

From the City Staff's very first outreach to the neighborhoods affected by the Barton Drive Project last fall at the Northside STEAM School, the outreach process has been faulty.

The City Staff failed to provide enough handouts and maps at this first meeting for all of the attendees to view. And the real-time consensus-building tool failed the first three times it was used, which took nearly an hour's worth of meeting time. And many residents – mostly, the elderly – attending this meeting left in frustration before these failures were remedied.

The City Staff and Council should let cooler -- and better-informed -- heads prevail and postpone the Barton Drive sidewalk project until after the pandemic is over.

The City can consider restarting these discussions when the City has secured the same proportion of external sources of funding for these sidewalks as it has for other, similar projects.

Thank you and good evening.

Zoltan Jung and Noemi Barabas

527 Barton Drive