



**City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Number 04-2022
Addendum**

**Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
In a virtual electronic format**

11. Correspondence

- a) Correspondence received from Roger Healey, dated November 1, 2022, regarding parking obstructions on sidewalks.

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November 1, 2022

To: Members of Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: Parking obstructions on sidewalks

The Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation (KCAT) recommends that Council **discontinue** the temporary exemption approved by Council on August 13, 2019, for residents on Bluffwood Avenue, Cottonwood Avenue and Cyprus Road. This exemption permitted partial obstruction of the sidewalk, forcing pedestrians off the sidewalk onto adjacent lawns and roadways, to accommodate vehicle parking for residents. This is a glaring example of prioritizing vehicles over people.

Council recognizes that sidewalks are for all pedestrians, including children walking to school, seniors walking for exercise, parents walking their babies in strollers, etc. Cars overhanging or obstructing safe passage on walkways should not be tolerated in any part of the city.

Sidewalks are part of the publicly funded transportation system, providing space for pedestrians, including those using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and crutches. Sidewalks provide safe places for physical activity and community connectedness for people of all ages and abilities. If there is an obstruction on any part of the sidewalk, people may choose not to use the sidewalk, and those with mobility challenges may not be able to use any of the sidewalk to get where they want to go. We urge Council to keep the sidewalks open and available to everyone. We are aware of vehicle obstructions happening in other neighbourhoods in Kingston. Please do not create a precedent that will compromise sidewalk access throughout the City.

This situation is a result of a mistaken planning decision made many years ago. Please do not compound that mistake by allowing other exceptions that many homeowners will come to expect and apply for. We believe that if residents have a vehicle that is too large for their lot and as a result impedes safe passage of pedestrians on the sidewalk in front of their house, they are required to find alternative legal parking for their vehicle.

Councillors, please select "Option 1" to discontinue the exemption and preserve full and unobstructed access to our sidewalks.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Healey, on behalf of KCAT