

To Mike Bradley, Regional Chair, (Niagara Region):

Cc: Public Works Committee

On behalf of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association I am writing to highlight concerns widely shared by the community in the light of ongoing plans to move forward with a roundabout solution at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road.

National AccessAbility week (<https://www.csps-efpc.gc.ca/events/national-accessability-week-2022/index-eng.aspx>) reminds us to be mindful of those in our community with disabilities and their unique challenges in accessing our local amenities and navigate our community.

As highlighted in the Public Information Centre #1 Summary Report roundabouts require pedestrians to find or create a gap. This can be challenging for seniors, children, and those with vision loss.

As we are well aware our St. Davids community has a large population of seniors. Furthermore St. Davids public school is a mere 350 metres from the roundabout and many children of all ages use this intersection to walk to school, specifically at times of increased motor vehicle traffic.

In the Public Information Centre # 2 Summary Report a potential pedestrian crossing treatment is outlined. While level 2 type D pedestrian crossovers are described the plan is lacking for many users. There does not appear to be a plan for signalization for pedestrians to aid those who cannot find gaps easily. Previous treatments on roundabouts have suggested signalization near schools. Furthermore there is no staggering of the crosswalk or further setbacks at the roundabout exit, which may allow for safer pedestrian crossing.

In publicly released materials there does not appear to be adequate incorporation of wayfinding and gap selection cues for those with low vision. In general roundabouts tend to “[create] barriers for people impacted by blindness to travel independently” (https://www.clearingourpath.ca/4.2.5-roundabouts_e.php).

We understand that the region has chosen to view this intersection as one involving “Regional roads, so they must remain open to truck traffic” (PIC summary #1), We view this intersection as the centre of the community and want it to be welcoming, accessible, and safe for all members of our community.

It is not our intention to interject on the progress that has been made to date. We are looking to understand and work together with the committee for a positive

outcome. We look forward to gaining the required knowledge of what is actually proposed, how it fits in with quality of life in St. Davids and participating in future meetings on this issue.

Yours truly,

Dan Segal

Vice President

St Davids Ratepayers Association