

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Adoption of Addendum to the Committee Agenda:

Motion by

THAT the Addendum to the Committee Agenda, be adopted as printed to include the following:

5.0 Report of the Acting Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

5.1 Proposed Closure of T.J. Dolan Drive from Centre Street to St. David Street (ITS21-014)

Following publishing of the agenda, the following citizens requested to address Committee with respect to this matter:

- Patrick O'Rourke
- Kirk Riehl

Motion by

THAT the presentations by Patrick O'Rourke and Kirk Riehl be heard.

Correspondence was also submitted from the following residents and is attached to this addendum for consideration:

- Patrick O'Rourke
- Douglas Reberg
- Jane Homan
- James Colbeck
- Nanci Fair
- David Prosser
- Richard Colgan
- Dr. Richard Wood
- Mary Walton
- Seana McKenna

• Dorothy Van Esbroeck

Attachments – Various emails referenced above.

Motion by

THAT the correspondence from the following residents regarding the proposed closure of T.J. Dolan Drive from Centre Street to St. David Street be received:

- Patrick O'Rourke
- Douglas Reberg
- Jane Homan
- James Colbeck
- Nanci Fair
- David Prosser
- Richard Colgan
- Dr. Richard Wood
- Mary Walton
- Seana McKenna
- Dorothy Van Esbroeck

From: Pat & Mary O'Rou	rke <	>	
Sent: Friday, May 7, 202	1 1:13 PM		
To: Dan Mathieson <	>; Danie	elle Ingram <	;
Graham Bunting	>; Kathy Vassi	lakos	>;
Martin Ritsma	; Bonnie Hende	erson	>; Brad
Beatty <	>; Dave Gaffney	>; Tom Cliff	ord
	; Cody Sebben <	>; Jo-Dee Burbach	
<			
Cc: Joan Thomson <	>; Tatiana D	Dafoe	
Subject: Proposed Closu	re of T J Dolan		

Good Afternoon Mayor and Councillors,

At the March 15, 2021 Public Meeting, I expressed the view that the proposed closure was unnecessary as T J Dolan is currently "multi use", and that the funds would be better used elsewhere. Having read the May 10, 2021 Management Report, I am more convinced than ever of this position.

The Report is, in my respectful opinion, incomplete, misleading and fatally flawed.

At the Public Meeting, staff indicated that the plan presented to Committee would include details of the proposed new trail. The Report does not include any drawings (other than one prepared by a member of the public). So Council, and citizens, simply do not know exactly what is being proposed or the consequent impacts.

Three options are described, but the obvious fourth option of "do nothing" is not even mentioned. The Report presupposes that something must be done, and this skews the subsequent analysis (for example, the report repeatedly refers to "converting" T J Dolan into a multi use trail, ignoring the fact it is already used in that manner, just like the portion of T J Dolan from St Vincent to Huron, and the whole of McLagan Drive).

The three options are described only in bullet points. The descriptions of the options, and the subsequent analysis, are clearly written to present option #3 (full closure) as the preferred decision. More specifically, options #3 states "no impact to trees". However, option #3 requires construction of a turn around on St David, and it is difficult to see how this could be done without loss of trees and greenspace at the intersection with T J Dolan. That option also contemplates a parking lot at the intersection of Centre and T J Dolan, but fails to note that this corner is currently home of the Clifford Bidggin Memorial Garden (established 1982) maintained by the Stratford Horticultural Society.

At the Public Meeting, staff confirmed that there have been no public complaints or requests to close the road. The report refers several times to the need to address ongoing maintenance costs, suggesting that cost savings is the primary driver. But no numbers are presented in support of this. The report also, based on my observations during daily walks, understates the current road condition. There are a few small areas that would benefit from patching, but on the whole, the road is in better condition than many in the neighbourhood, including Centre Street from Shrewsbury to St Vincent, Shrewsbury, parts of St David and Daly Ave.

The description of the financial impacts is limited; there is no firm cost estimate, but the Report implies the whole project, including the previously approved work on the St David to St Vincent portion, would be \$400,000.

The Report is contradictory as to the funding for the project, stating that the City "would receive" roughly \$300,000 from the Province, then saying that "an application has been made", but the City does not know if it has been approved. This raises the question of whether a Council decision to close the road is a precondition to approval.

As I stated in March, the funds allocated to this project could be better used elsewhere. For example, the Shakespearean Gardens have limited accessibility. There is a ramp from the Courthouse parking lot, but it is in poor condition and does not appear to meet current standards. That entrance gives access to the western part of the garden, but the trails there are mainly simple dirt paths. The eastern part of the gardens require climbing steps and is not accessible. The Gardens are visited by many, many, many more people than use T J Dolan. I respectfully suggest that spending \$400,000 to create accessibility for the Gardens is a far more beneficial project than improving accessibility on part of T J Dolan.

Thank you,

Patrick O'Rourke

From: Douglas Reberg < Date: 2021-05-07 2:44 p.m. (Gl	>		
To: Dan Mathieson		elle Ingram	, Graham
Bunting	>, Kathy Vassilakos <		Martin Ritsma
	nie Henderson	<u>a</u> >, Brad Bea	
< >, Dave	Gaffney <	>, Tom Clifford	
	Sebben	, Jo-Dee Burbach	
, Joan	Thomson	, Tatiana Dafoe	
Cc: Pat & Mary O'Rourke <		>, Nanci Fair	>, Erin
Lawson	>, Ann Nowack	, Jim Sid	well
>, Jane Ho	oman <	>, Kimberly Richardson	
<	, P and C Nickel <	>, Rick ar	nd Kathy Micks
>,	Martine Becu	, Caron Gall	
>, She	ila Clarke <	>, susan KURTZ <	
Subject: Re: Proposed Closure	of T J Dolan		

To Stratford City Council:

I completely agree with Pat O'Rourke's May 7 letter to you about the proposed TJ Dolan closing.

The Centre Street Garden is a lovely neighbourhood feature. Centre Street Garden began as a memorial to Clifford Biggin, who died in 1982. His wife, Lorna, requested memorial donations to Stratford and District Horticultural Society, of which she was a long-standing member. Lorna lived for many years after Clifford's death, and when she died in 2010 the Biggin family commissioned a memorial bench to them both. The garden was a very appropriate memorial, because Clifford and Lorna had a long-standing custom of nightly walks that nearly always took them past the garden. Architect Terry Marklevitz designed the garden in the late 1980s to simulate two ponds with a rocky stream tumbling between them. The basic design remains, although plantings have changed over the years, maintained by members of Garden Stratford (Stratford and District Horticultural Society). I understand that plans for TJ Dolan will probably include destroying Centre Street garden to create a parking lot. I strongly urge you not to do that.

Mr. O'Rourke has outlined why Shakespearean Gardens are among Stratford's major attractions for visitors and residents. Unfortunately, I know from personal experience that accessing those gardens is a major problem for anyone with even minor infirmities. The stairs at the main and side entrances are very dangerous, there are no handrails, the wheelchair ramp is poorly designed and hazardous and the pathways are, at best, difficult to negotiate. The money needed for the TJ Dolan project would be much more wisely spent improving accessibility to Shakespearean Gardens leaving the Centre Street Garden for continued enjoyment of the neighbourhood and visitors.

Sincerely yours,



From: Jane Homan <	>		
Sent: Friday, May 7, 20	021 3:06 PM		
To: Dan Mathieson <	>; Da	anielle Ingram	>; Graham
Bunting <	; Kathy Vassilakos	>	; Martin Ritsma
	>; Bonnie Henderson <	; Brad Be	atty
	; Dave Gaffney	; Tom Clifford	
	>; Cody Sebben	>; Jo-Dee Burbach	
			_
Cc: Joan Thomson	>; Tatia	na Dafoe <	
Subject: Centre St Gar	den & Parking		_

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am also agreeing with the letter that Mary and Patrick O'Rourke submitted to you. I believe it is well stated letter with many people who will be agreeing with it - especially those who live in the area.

I really believe that you have had little response due to the insulation of Covid and the Lockdown regarding this matter - sometimes it feels like these things are trivial until we have had some time to realize the impact of what has been proposed, and have to speak up. Hopefully as more in the city realize the proposal you will have more response.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Homan

From: JamesColbeck < Section 2012 Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 1:50 PM To: Michelle Cronin Section 2012 Subject: Proposed Closure of T. J. Dolan Drive from Centre Street to St. David Street - Upcoming Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Good afternoon, Ms. Cronin,

I was pleased to receive your notification (below) from a neighbour today and delighted to read the UITSC is proceeding with the T.J. Dolan Drive project analysis.

I have already sent my detailed considerations to Mr. Dujlovic and the Council a couple of months ago. I would request that these be brought forward as appropriate for the May 10th deliberations. Since that last meeting, I have had ample opportunity to reassess my submission - having taken many walks along that roadway as a resident of the neighbourhood - and still believe it is definitely worth serious consideration.

Thank you.



James Colbeck

From: JamesColbeck				
Sent: Wednesday, Mar	rch 3, 2021 11:19 AM	-		
To: Ed Dujlovic <	>			
Cc: Dan Mathieson		>; Brad Beatty	>; G	raham Bunting
	>; Jo-Dee Burbach		>; Tom Clifford	
<	>; Dave Gaffney <		; Bonnie Henderson	
<	>; Danielle Ingram		>; Martin Ritsma	
<	; Cody Sebben		>; Kathy Vassilakos	

Subject: The TJ DOLAN Walking/Cycling Trail Project



RE: The TJ DOLAN Walking/Cycling Trail Project (St. David Street to John Street)

Good morning, Mr. Dujlovic,

Hearing there is to be a virtual meeting on this theme and further to my submission of a few weeks ago, I wish to submit the following rough conceptualization in support of what I spelled out in text in that email. I do apologize for the quality of this submission (not to scale); TIME is not a friend at the moment.

There is one addition I have made here which is not spelled out in my earlier presentation: a covered Observation Deck/Pavilion located between the two dominant trees along the path... a spot where people might stop and rest, take time to paint a picture or take a photograph, read a book, visit, etc. Contrary to what some might think, there is a very restful view from there across the canal. By the same token, this structure would not intrude on space enjoyed by others wishing to fish further along the embankment towards Centre Street, as individuals/families do from time to time.





The word "*Extended*" penned in the TJ Dolan Parking Lot up right could/should read "*Expanded*".

This sketch supports the concept of maintaining St. David Street-into-the-TJ Dolan as a two-way drive as opposed to closing the TJ Dolan off to traffic and installing a *cul-de-sac* at the bottom of the St. David Street hill.

Respectfully submitted with Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

james

From: Nanci Fair <	>		
Sent: Friday, May 7	7, 2021 3:51 PM		
To: Jane Homan	>		
Cc: Dan Mathieson	>; [Danielle Ingram <	>; Graham
Bunting	>; Kathy Vassilako)S	; Martin Ritsma
	Bonnie Henderson	Brad Be	eatty
<	; Dave Gaffney	; Tom Clifford	
	; Cody Sebben	; Jo-Dee Burbach	
	>; Joan Thomson	>; Tatiana Dafo	e

Subject: Re: Centre St Garden & Parking

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and Council;

I am in agreement with the 'do nothing proposal'.

I live at Centre Street and this property has been in my family since 1906. Needless to say I've seen the neighbourhood go through many changes over my seven decades associated with this property.

The current arrangement is working well, and has for many years.

I believe that redirecting the financial resources is an idea worth serious consideration.

Please give some attention to the issue of increased accessibility to the Shakespearean Gardens.

Sincerely, Nanci Fair

David Prosser
Dan Mathieson; Danielle Ingram; Graham Bunting; Kathy Vassilakos; Martin Ritsma; Bonnie Henderson; Brad
Beatty; Dave Gaffney; Tom Clifford; Cody Sebben; Jo-Dee Burbach; Joan Thomson; Tatiana Dafoe
Jane Homan
Re: Centre St Garden & Parking
Friday, May 7, 2021 5:13:48 PM

Dear Dan, and members of Council:

I'm with Jane Homan on this. I haven't been paying as much attention as I should have to what's being proposed here, but I am appalled by the suggestion that the memorial garden at the end of Centre Street be turned into a parking lot.

This city is short enough of green spaces as it is, and if this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we need the balm for the soul that such spaces provide. The last thing we need is more places to put cars.

David Prosser Centre Street Stratford, ON N5A 1E3

From:	Rich Colgan
To:	Jane Homan
Cc:	Dan Mathieson; Danielle Ingram; Graham Bunting; Kathy Vassilakos; Martin Ritsma; Bonnie Henderson; Brad
	<u>Beatty; Dave Gaffney; Tom Clifford; Cody Sebben; Jo-Dee Burbach; Joan Thomson; Tatiana Dafoe</u>
Subject:	Re: Centre St Garden & Parking
Date:	Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:38:06 AM

I also strongly agree! I live in the area and use and appreciate that space every day!

Richard Colgan

Sent from my iPhone Richard Colgan

On May 7, 2021, at 3:06 PM, Jane Homan

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am also agreeing with the letter that Mary and Patrick O'Rourke submitted to you. I believe it is well stated letter with many people who will be agreeing with it - especially those who live in the area.

wrote:

I really believe that you have had little response due to the insulation of Covid and the Lockdown regarding this matter - sometimes it feels like these things are trivial until we have had some time to realize the impact of what has been proposed, and have to speak up. Hopefully as more in the city realize the proposal you will have more response.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Homan

From:	Richard Wood
То:	Dan Mathieson; Danielle Ingram; Graham Bunting; Tom Clifford; Brad Beatty; Cody Sebben; Dave Gaffney; Jo-
	Dee Burbach; Kathy Vassilakos; Bonnie Henderson; Martin Ritsma; Tatiana Dafoe
Subject:	Closure of TJ Dolan from St David to Centre Street
Date:	Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:49:02 AM

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Re: Closure of TJ Dolan from St David Street to Centre Street

I am writing again to voice my strenuous objection to the unnecessary and inordinately costly "renovation" of TJ Dolan that the city is currently considering. I now learn that the actual costs of such "restoration" will approximate \$400,000 - money that is to be spent addressing a problem that doesn't exist and that doesn't require fixing, as Patrick and Mary O'Rourke have noted in their letters to you and as I noted in my previous letter to you. Can we really afford to be so profligate with financial resources - both provincial and municipal - at a time when the pandemic has produced severe financial constraints? There are many, many more issues to be addressed of far greater priority then attempting an expensive fix for a non-problem. And it's not even a fix, so far as I can tell from my discussion with my neighbors, that the neighbourhood itself would want.

Please hear us and back away from supporting renovation of TJ Dolan. It works very well as it is. At present, it already admirably serves a multi use function.

Dr. Richard Wood Cambria St.

From:	Mary Walton
To:	Dan Mathieson; Danielle Ingram; Graham Bunting; kathy.vassilakos@gmai.com; Martin Ritsma; Bonnie
	<u>Henderson; Brad Beatty; Dave Gaffney; Tom Clifford; Cody Sebben; jburbach@stratford.caj</u>
Cc:	<u>Tatiana Dafoe; Alyssa Bridge</u>
Subject:	Proposed changes to T J Dolan
Date:	Sunday, May 9, 2021 12:26:02 PM

Good Afternoon Your Worship.and Members of Council,

I am unable to fathom why, during a pandemic whose end is so uncertain, you would entertain spending \$100,000 of tax payers' money on a project no one wants. I attended the public meeting on March 15 to discuss the proposal to dead-end T J Dolan Drive from St. David to Center Street to provide a walking trail and parking lot. No citizen spoke in favour of the plan and yet you sent the proposal to staff for further investigation. Why? No one asked you to.

I live on Cambria Street, one block from the hospital where patients from other parts of the province are being treated to relieve the overburdened ICUs in GTA hospitals. The newspapers and news programs are rife with gut wrenching stories of the toll caring for COVID patients is having on our front line health care workers. The increase in the number of ambulances that are going up and down Cambria each day attests to the burden on our local resources.

The media is also carrying reports of the increase in drug use among young people who are not able to cope with the pandemic and the frightening increase in overdoses that are taking their lives. As well, there are appeals for funds for mental health support for those who are being adversely affected by COVID.

Surely. Your Worship and Members of Council, you could find a humanitarian use for our \$100,000 that could help alleviate some of your citizens' suffering and provide a concrete example of your concern. Perhaps setting pop up vaccine center in Market Square, or taking vaccines to those who are housebound or putting on extra buses to take those who are mobility challenged or mentally challenged to vaccine centers or topping up funds for respite care for exhausted caregivers. I would think that Dr. Klassen could provide you with a list of services she needs funding for.

The fact that 700 citizens turned out for the Family Freedom rally on April 25 should tell you how close to the breaking point many of your citizens are. The number of them who are walking around downtown or congregating in Market Square every weekend without masks is further proof. They need to see you actively doing something to alleviate COVID stress so they can start to exhale. Please put our money to better use than blocking off some streets and putting up a parking lot.

Respectfully,

Mary Margaret Walton



May 9, 2020

To the Mayor and Councillors of Stratford,

I am assuming you have all read the letter I sent to you c/o the Clerk on March 10, concerning the proposed closure of TJ Dolan Road, but am sending a copy along anyways. I cannot seem to extricate it from a long thread, so I took a screen shot of it and sent it to myself first: please forgive the confusing dates.

Upon reading the recent Management Report, I was surprised at the wording of the summary, listing a number of "concerns and comments", ending with " in support of the road closure to convert to a multi-use trail". I wrote in clear opposition to the trail, as did others, but that was not clearly stated. Nor were the concerns about needless spending to "convert" a route into a multi use trail; it already IS a multi- use trail. Nor were the concerns about safely passing on a narrower path in times of social distancing mentioned.

Three options were presented, and not one stated "simply repair or restructure the road", which I believe would cost \$200,00.00 in the future, as its condition is "good" and was paved only in 2017. Why is that? Are these decisions all based on the application for provincial funds, which has yet to be approved? There was no public complaint or request for this closure. If you need something to justify the funds, perhaps add a bike lane. Proposals 1 and 2 topple trees or reduce green space, and a turnaround at the bottom of St. David seems to interrupt the natural flow of a trail. No mention is made of the memorial garden that is part of the hill that would be cut into with one of the proposals.

Walking the other day in TJ Dolan, I ran into a Stratford acquaintance who was not aware of the proposed road closure. When I briefly explained the proposal, they exclaimed: "Why?! It's fine as it is".

I can't improve on that. I urge you to keep TJ Dolan Road open. Many thanks, Seana McKenna

Feb 10, 2021

To Mayor Mathieson and Councillors, I would just like to add a voice in opposition to the closure of the TJ Dolan Road. I walk this road almost every day. There is very little traffic as is, as there was very little on the section that has been closed to traffic all winter. My main point is that it is ALREADY a mutipurpose travel route, that allows for great socialdistancing, which a trail does not. I see families with strollers, people walking in threes, people parking by the side to access the river and fish or to go into the TJ Dolan Conservation area. A road by the river is much easier to travel by foot in the winter and spring than a trail, especially for seniors, those with strollers or wheelchairs and those who wish to safely pass those coming in the opposite direction. If this road is maintained, it is a wonderful transit route for pedestrians and cyclists already, and gives walkers another welcome change from residential streets and narrow trails. It is idyllic and unusual, and needs no change except minimally maintaining the road.

The money would be better spent restoring the pedestrian walkway around the Avon on William Street, by putting in infill and erosion walls. I understand the concerns of the neighbours

there, who saw their land dissolving in to the Avon, but City lampposts still light what was a public walkway for generations. That pathway should be restored to the public, to make a continuous walk around the Avon. Restoring what was lost, rather than solving a problem that doesn't really exist, would be a better use of public funds. Sincerely, Seana McKenna

Sent from my iPhone

T J Dolan Closure Questions

What data is there now on how many vehicles presently use TJ Dolan Drive?

How long will this multi-use trail be?

Will there be access from St. David to the multiuse trail?

At the last meeting it was stated that the multi-use trail would be 3 or 4 metres? How was it determined to be only 3 metres?

If the road is presently around 5 to 6.5 metres wide, will the pavement be dug up to make a 3 metre trail? What or how is the road disposed of or recycled? What is the total area of pavement removed?

What will the surface be of any parking added to the trailhead? How many cars can be accommodated for parking at that location? I have seen as many as 15 cars parked along TJ Dolan Drive.

Is this a best use of active transportation infrastructure money, to narrow a road and then add parking and a turnaround at a dead end road?

Will sweeping be part of trail maintenance?

What is the cost of just making the multi-use trail on the portion of TJ Dolan that is already closed?

What is the cost of putting up a sign on TJ Dolan Drive, letting the public know the road is being considered for closure? (Similar to sign for free parking downtown in pandemic)

What I see missing from the report is the anticipation of any problems caused by the closing of TJ Dolan such as parking moved to other streets or the cemetery in the winter.

Are there any other potential bike lane or multi-use trails for Stratford that are shovel ready?

The section of McCarthy from Mornington to Romeo comes to mind as does Romeo St.

Without a master plan, the making of trails that don't connect destinations does not meet the needs of Active Transportation.

What is Active Transportation?

Active transportation refers to the movement of people or goods powered by human activity. Active transportation includes walking, cycling and the use of human-powered or hybrid mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, rollerblades, snowshoes and crosscountry skis.

What is Active Transportation Infrastructure?

Active transportation infrastructure refers to physical structures and the built environment that support active transportation, such as pathways, bike lanes, multi-use trails and widened sidewalks. The most effective active transportation infrastructure provides a complete network that allows users to safely move through their communities and between destinations, from main streets to schools, parks, public transit hubs and residential neighbourhoods.

https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/trans/active-actif-eng.html