

OSHAWA CREEK TRAIL ASSESMENT APRIL 2024

Overview

April 18, 2024

June 09, 2025

Upon recent review, please reference updated comments as noted in green – Thank you

The 6km approximate (Joseph Kolodzie) Oshawa Creek Trail transverses central Oshawa to Lake Ontario and is widely recognized as a key active transportation corridor within the City of Oshawa with excellent navigational wayfinding signage.

Unique to this paved trail are the endless bridges and tunnels which provide a safe experience for all users as the trail passes under major city roads, highway #401 and two major rail corridors.

Given the age of this trail and its importance, the asphalt surface is now showing significant deterioration in need of capital investment to either rehabilitate with repair work and / or full replacement by section to the newly accepted minimum 4M width.

As such, Durham Region Cycling Coalition recently completed a trail review – Simcoe St. South to City Hall - from a cyclist's perspective using the following criteria:

Asphalt Rating:

Very Good	No significant issues.
Good	May require some minor repair work.
Fair	Major repairs recommended.
Poor	Complete replacement and upgrade to new 4m trail width.

Further to this we observed sections with erosion issues and trail access opportunities as well as one section being fully closed with no visible detour.

Our comments include the following observations by segment:



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Simcoe St. Trail Head.

~~The Trail Head located at Simcoe St. has a non-accessible curb preventing access from the street.~~

Update; Curb cut completed 2024- Thank you!

Noting the newly created Ed Broadbent Park is located on the east side of Simcoe St. opposite the Trail Head, consideration should be given to connect the Trail and the Park via a mid block secure crossing.

Unfortunately, it appears a new mid block crossing has been recently added approximately 50m north of the Trail Head on Simcoe St.

The east side Trail Head - as shown - does not connect to the west side Ed Broadbent Park trail which is a missed connectivity opportunity.



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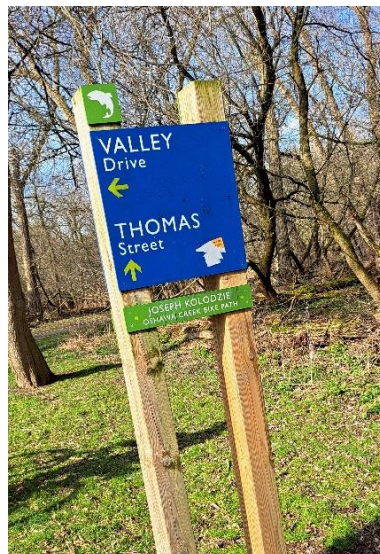
Simcoe St. west to Valley Dr. Y-Intersection.

- Asphalt conditions rated as very good.
- Y connection to Valley Dr. rated as good.



Valley Dr. Y-Intersection to Thomas St.

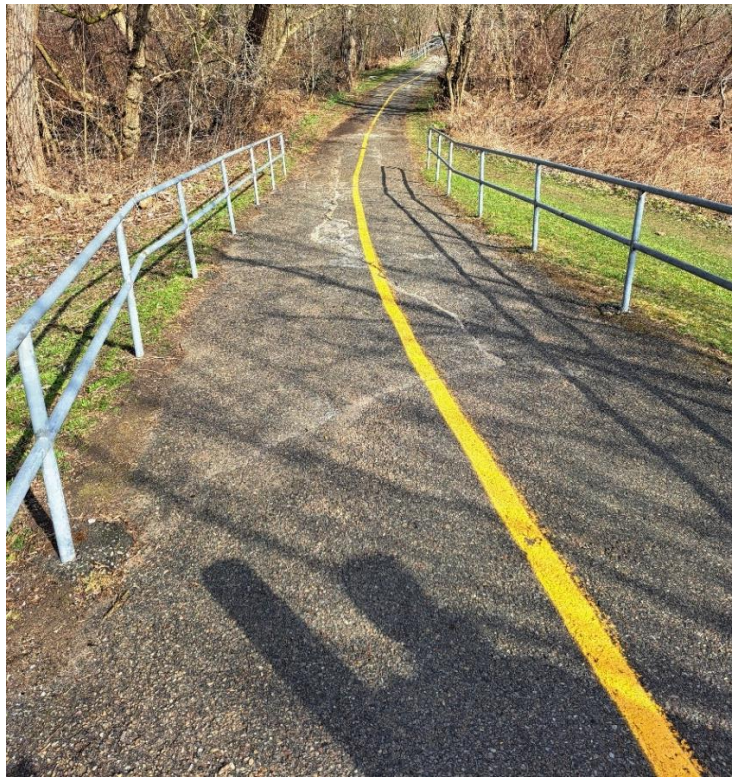
- Asphalt conditions rated as good.
 - Some broken asphalt conditions observed in need of site repair.



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Thomas St. to Wentworth St.

- Asphalt conditions rated as poor.
- Repair work required.
 - Conditions between two bridge crossings very poor- (reference photo)
 - Replacement of asphalt recommended and upgrade to 4m width.



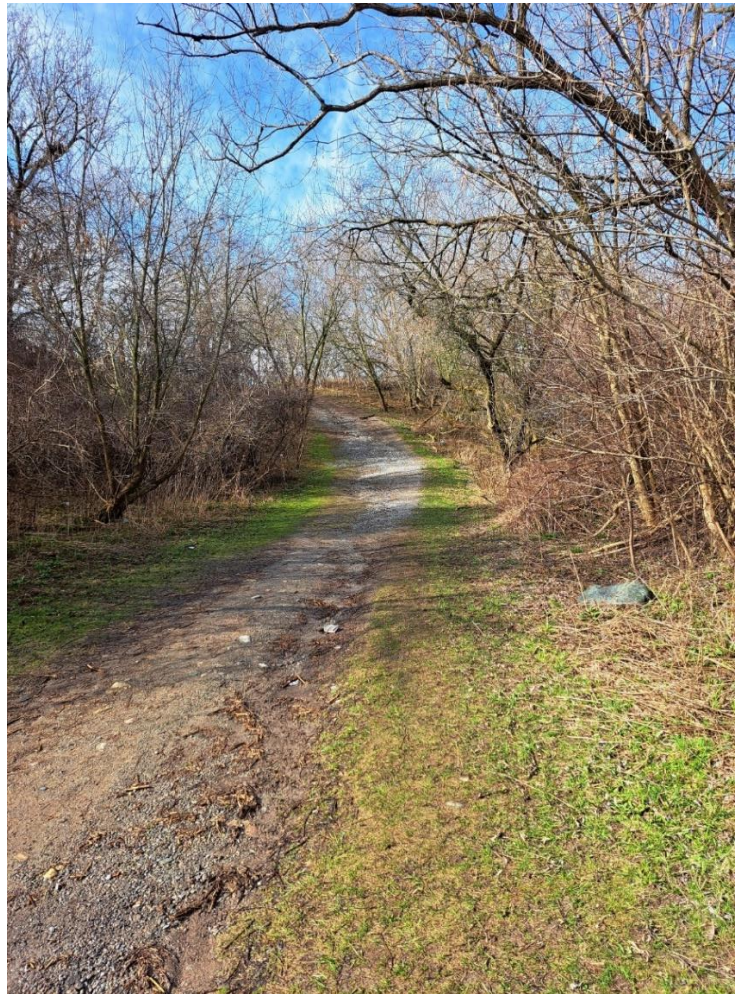
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Wentworth St. Access - North Side.

- Access to Wentworth St. on north side of trail crossing very poor. (no change)
- Rehabilitation required.

Update- City has posted this access as not open to the public versus completing the upgrade, however navigation signage remains in place to use this access.

Our suggestion would be to complete the access upgrade



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Wentworth St. to Whiting Ave.

- Asphalt conditions rated as fair
 - Repairs by section should be considered
 - ~~Note bridge access point — Orange paint observed indicating repair requirement.~~
 - **Update- Asphalt repair completed 2024 – Thank You!**



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Whiting Ave. to Erie St.

- Asphalt conditions rated as poor.
 - Full replacement recommendation and upgrade to 4m width.



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Erie St. Bridge / Trail Intersection.

- New bridge a welcome addition.
- ~~Bridge Intersection with trail in very poor condition and requires an upgrade to support the newly constructed bridge.~~
- **Update- modification repairs completed 2024 – Thank You!**



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Erie St. to Bloor St.

- Asphalt conditions rated as poor.
 - Full replacement recommendation and upgrade to 4m width.



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CN Rail underpass south side.

- Trail compromised due to major erosion.
- Conditions have been observed for a number of years with no action?
- **Immediate repair required.**



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Bloor St. at Highway #401 underpass south side.

- Broken asphalt observed in need of repair.



Highway #401 underpass to Mill St. / Sinclair Ave.

- Asphalt conditions rated as poor.
 - Full replacement recommendation and upgrade to 4m width.
- Note: 50m approximate north side of underpass resurfaced within last two years.



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Sinclair Ave. to Gibb St.

- Asphalt conditions rated as poor.
 - Full replacement recommendation and upgrade to 4m width.



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Gibb St. underpass.

- Currently gated and closed to public access?
- ~~No safe alternate detour identified.~~
- Requires an immediate solution.
- Current users circumventing gate and / or passing via an open access gate which leads across Village Union Public School Parking Lot.
- **Update- Detour signage posted 2024- Thank You!**
 - **Consideration for a similar sign to be posted on the north side Gibb St. as well.**



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Gibb St. to City Hall

- Asphalt conditions rated as very good.

City Hall Bridge crossing over Oshawa Creek.

- Aged wooden structure circa 70's design.
- Safety concern with horizontal rails.
 - Consider replacement upgrade.



In summary, we understand the pressures associated with municipal budget planning and would ask that repairs to the Oshawa Creek Trail be prioritized given the significant importance to this active transportation corridor. Should the need arise, we are happy to meet on site to discuss our observations.

On behalf of everyone at Durham Region Cycling Coalition, thank you for taking time to review our feedback.

Update- Durham Region Cycling Coalition appreciates the work completed in 2024. As we progress into 2025, we are optimistic more of the areas identified will see additional improvements and remain available to meet on site. Thank You!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Lalonde".

Ron Lalonde
Executive Director
Durham Region Cycling Coalition
www.durhamsafecycling.ca

