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Whitby ON, L1N 9K3

Advocating for Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Nov.20, 2019

Property Maintenance Manager
Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
700 Gordon Street
Whitby, Ontario
L1N 5S9

Dear Reader,

Durham Region Cycling Coalition (DRCC) is a not for profit volunteer organization representing the five cycle clubs located in Durham Region advocating for safe cycling across the region.

As such, we are reaching out to Ontario Shores with a safety concern our membership has brought forward.

DRCC would like to draw to your attention an opportunity pertaining to the vehicle emergency access security gate located at Gordon Street. We realize the gate design is important to keep vehicles off site, however this same gate is a major obstacle for cyclists as they pass onto the Ontario Shores site from the Gordon Street Multi-use Pathway (MUP). With the present design, cyclists approaching from Gordon must try to pass on the east side of the gate in a rutted section of pathway or cross in front of the gate and then circle back over a grass median. As I am sure you will appreciate neither is very functional and in fact poses a safety risk to cyclists.

Conversely, we see at the opposite end of the property an access free environment for AT users arriving via the Whitby Shores Greenway MUP. Further to this, we have noted a completely different style of gate on Harbourside Drive which functions very well for AT users while prohibiting vehicle traffic.

For your review, we have enclosed a number of photos.

With safety and ease of access in mind, would it be possible for Ontario Shores to redesign the Gordon Street access gate in support of AT? As a suggestion, perhaps an expansion of the entrance of the east side of the existing gate wide enough to support AT users could be given consideration. By doing so, the existing vehicle security gate would remain in place while providing a simple solution at a minimal capital expenditure.



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In making your decision we ask that Ontario Shores consider the following:

- Safety and ease of access as AT users pass through the security gate.
- Local community support to a wonderful park setting by providing user friendly access for every-one passing through the gated section.
- Recognizing the importance of supporting the Waterfront Trail which passes this entry point, a trail which attracts travelers from across Durham, Ontario as well as International Cycle Tourists.
- Supporting AT as a lifestyle which is a proven benefit in support of mental health well being.

In closing, DRCC appreciates Ontario Shores providing access across the property site for Active Transportation (AT) users as a part of the Waterfront Trail and are optimistic Ontario Shores will agree with the merits of our request.

On behalf of every-one at DRCC, thank you for taking time to consider our submission. Should the need arise, please reach out as we are always available to meet your team on site to further clarify the risk at hand and review solutions. We can be reached via our e-mail or mailing address.

Thank You

Bruce MacDonald

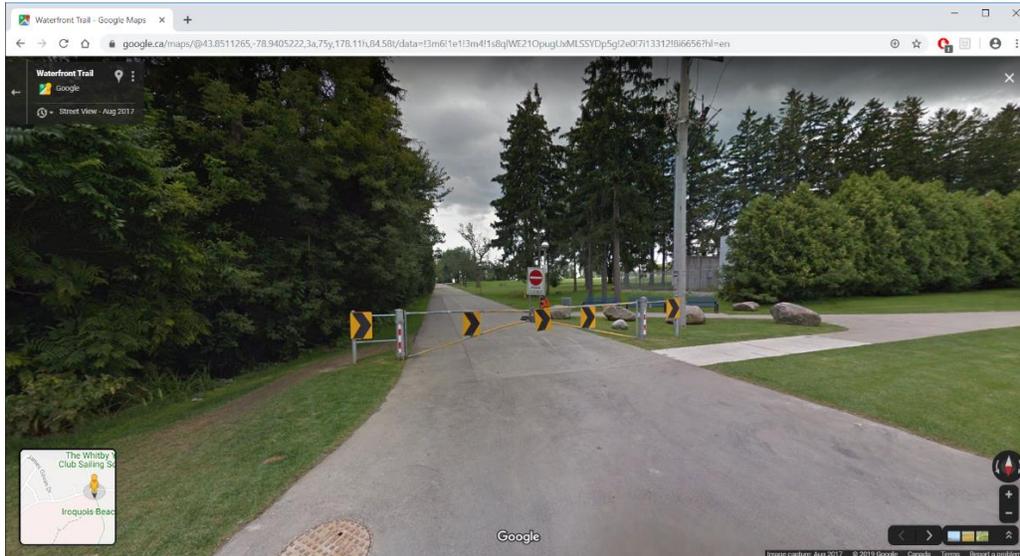
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Gordon Street View



Harbourside Drive

