

To: Mayor and Councilors, Town of Blue Mountains
June 26, 2024

Re: Bay Street East Infrastructure reconstruction project
COMMUNITY INPUT AND REQUEST

The residents of Bay Street East would like to request that the council reconsider its decision to route the new force main system under our community. We would encourage the town to consider this project separately from the replacement of the street's ageing water and septic pipes and study the two issues separately.

- 1) There appears to be a great deal of confusion regarding what was actually approved in the August 2023 COW meeting regarding the location of the expanded force main. The community was never made aware that a decision had been made – prior to two community input sessions. Could you please direct us to the passage where Bay Street East was approved as the location and provide the discussion and justification for doing so.
- 2) Please provide the (approximate) respective projected dollar costs of all four options that were researched and recommended. Could you also please delineate what other softer costs were considered i.e. timing, disruption, trees, environmental risk, adherence to town plan “charm” consideration
- 3) Is the council aware that the construction of the force main under Bay Street East requires the width of the road to be widened by at least 10', resulting in;
 - loss of “cottage lane” character. Bay Street East, and also Bayview Avenue (whose needed upgrades have been totally ignored) is currently one of the most charming and peaceful streets in the TBM. The 60 homes which would be directly impacted are occupied by residents who value the street's current character, as do many of the residents of Thornbury who use the street for walking and cycling
 - loss of trees. We have calculated that close to XXX mature trees would need to be cut down – totaling over XXXX years of forest growth
 - environmental risk. Running such a large sewage pumping system right next to Georgian Bay would surely create an enormous potential environmental risk
 - increase road surface area requiring storm sewers, necessitating additional street width and increased cost. The street does not currently have a drainage issue
 - no incremental community value would be felt from “upgrading” the streetscape. A critical traffic study would show a bare minimum of cars, yielding to a large number of pedestrians, cyclists and baby carriages

Bay Street East residents would like to invite councilors to meet with us on the street to visualize the extent of the damage that would be done if Bay Street E is used as the TBM' s new infrastructure highway.

Thank you for recognizing your constituents.

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