

Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Audit Report

Kanata South Bridlewood Trails Community

In the fall of 2017, the Bridlewood Trails Retirement Residence reached out to the Council on Aging of Ottawa(COA) – Pedestrian Safety & Walkability Committee for assistance in planning an Age-Friendly pedestrian audit. The principal concern was to audit the safety of pedestrians crossing Eagleson Road at Romina in order to access Emerald Meadows Park. Safety and accessibility issues in the surrounding areas were also audited. The COA Age-Friendly all-season Pedestrian Safety & Walkability Checklist was filled out by participants, with data collected at the end of the audit.

On June 4th 2018, 22 attendees participated in the walkability audit. City staff from Councillor Alan Hubley's office, Public Works - Environmental Services, Transportation Department, Safer Roads Ottawa as well as members of the COA Pedestrian Safety & Walkability Committee also participated. The senior residents and community attendees were between the ages of 27 and 87 years of age. There were three areas included in this walkability audit. (See route maps in Appendix 2)



1. Eagleson & Romina (to Emerald Meadows/ Meadowbreeze Park)
2. Eagleson & Bridgestone
3. Fernbank & Romina

Background:

1. Eagleson/Romina: (to Meadowbreeze Park)

The Kanata south community of Bridlewood Trails has witnessed rapid growth over the last two years. New housing developers Glenview Homes, Claridge, Urbandale collectively adding over 500+ new housing units to a very concentrated area within the boundaries of Hope Side Road, Fernbank and Eagleson Roads. This has resulted in significant increase in vehicular traffic for the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The executive townhomes, condominiums and single dwellings of the vibrant Bridlewood Trails neighbourhood is made up of various ages and demographics. Young families with strollers and small children, joggers, dog walkers as well as seniors aged 70+. These citizen's are interested in using the **Meadowbreeze /Emerald Meadows Park** walking paths as part of their daily exercise routine.

Egleson is a four lane road (some areas just 2 lanes) that see significant increase in car/bus traffic during the hours of 7:00-9:00 am and 3:00-7:00 pm Monday to Friday.

From 6-8:00 am and 4-7:00 pm bus commuters are also crossing Eagleson to get to/from their home in the Emerald Meadows neighbourhood.

2. Romina/Fernbank:

The Romina Fernbank cross street area has witnessed an increase in traffic accidents over the last few years typically during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Noted: The wait times to cross at Romina/Fernbank at pm rush hour can take up to 5 minutes before there is a visable break in traffic to allow pedestrian crossing.

Within the last year, residents have complained on social media that there have been at least 7 accidents (one involving a school bus). Residents (mostly young families) in the Bridlewood Trails and Trailwest community have repeatedly expressed their concerns to their councillor and have

requested further traffic studies. Although there remains traffic lights at the corner of Terry Fox and Fernbank, a four way stop OR a pedestrian safety cross walk is what the local residents would like to be considered by the City and Transportation departments.

3. Bridgestone/Eagleson:

New housing development of Urbandale – and new elementary and secondary school (Maurice Lapointe) opened in 2016-17 which has increased traffic as well. Bridgestone meets Eagleson at a T.



Traffic needs to go either left or right on Eagleson with just a stop sign for Bridgestone. There are no sidewalks along the Eagleson area on either side - the gravel on either side of Eagleson Road slopes making it difficult to walk, run or jog.



Pedestrian Walkability Audit Findings:

1. Romina/Eagleson Road/Emerald Meadows Drive:

- Access to the Emerald Meadows Park is limited because there is no formalized crossing at Eagleson Rd./Romina, at the entrance to the park.



- It is unsafe for citizens of any age, but especially seniors using mobility aids to try to cross Eagleson Road to access the park. It takes approximately **22 seconds** for a senior with a walker to cross

this 4-lane road. From each person who completed the survey every one commented that they did NOT FEEL SAFE crossing here.

The multi-use/shared pathways in the park are asphalt and for the most part are smooth and well-maintained. We noticed one area where the asphalt has sunken and there was a very large puddle (photo).



There is no overhead lighting in the park.

There are no traffic calming measures on Eagleson Rd. There is one visible speed limit sign of 60 kmh. It was noted that many cars are going faster than the posted limit.



There is **no signage** identifying the need to slow down for seniors and a nearby senior's residence.

Comments/Recommendations:

Public Works-Environmental Services (311): Repair large sunken area on shared pathway in the park. Water – hazard.

Traffic Calming measures; speed reduction signage to 40 kmh; Signage identifying area where seniors live and cross Eagleson Road.

Traffic light synchronization: The existing traffic lights on either side of the Emerald Park entrance on Eagleson Road, could be timed to be RED at the same time (for 30 seconds) so that pedestrians have time to cross the 4 lane road.

Consideration of a **formalized pedestrian crossing**.

Accessibility:

- Areas on this audit route were all accessible.
- The park itself is not accessible because of lack of crossing of the 4 lane Eagleson Road.

Convenience & Connectedness:

- There is a lack of pedestrian signage along this route.
- Crossing Eagleson Road is a barrier to pedestrian ability to enjoy this beautiful park.

Comfort & Attractiveness:

- There are several benches alongside the pathways in the park. Additional benches would add comfort for older adults and are being requested.
- There are no drinking fountains or accessible toilet facilities in the park.

Eagleson & Fernbank Road

Noted on the walking audit although the pedestrians felt safe, the sidewalks and curb were **very uneven** in spots creating a tripping/unsafe hazard area for pedestrians especially seniors.

Specifically: at the Opus Street/Romina no curb cut and a tripping edge; as well as Arrita/Romina Street and Romina curb is cut too high in one place in between opus and Arrita. There were a number of tripping points mentioned on the side walk.

There were no pedestrian lights available to cross. Traffic was lighter at that time of day (11:00 a.m.) The rainy weather also had less than normal pedestrians as well.

There is no signage suggesting the need for cars to slow down on Fernbank Road. Noticeably the cars were travelling faster than the speed limit.

Eagleson Road/Brigitta to Bridgestone Street

Walking down Eagleson Road from 480 Brigitta Street - pedestrians felt very unsafe. There is no sidewalk on either side, no curbs or protection from traffic. The sloped gravel on each side of Eagleson with visible debris/garbage.

If anyone was trying to get to/from a bus stop (corner of Eagleson and Fernbank it would not be safe. If pedestrians wanted to walk to Loblaws Superstore north on Eagleson this part of the road, is definitely not safe to do so.

If sidewalks cannot be considered then, at the very least ensure the gravel side slopes are more level in places along Eagleson Road. During rainy weather day the gravel was not cooperative to someone using an electric wheel chair – Sunken tire marks observed in gravel.



Cars were noted travelling **over** the speed limit of 60 kms. It is reduced to 60 kms but consideration of a lower speed limit of 40 kms along this part of Eagleson Road until past Hope Side Road.

There is a pedestrian sign there as well but there should be one closer to Romina maybe one that says elderly crossing on both sides of Eagleson just outside of the retirement residence coming North and going South.

There were no smooth curb ramps at street crossing for people to use. The sidewalk is very uneven -

There was no crosswalk and light or street crossings at this intersection which should be considered. There is an elementary school(Maurice Lapointe) on Bridgestone not very far anyone turning left onto Bridgestone, cars trying to pass would hit anyone trying to walk along the side of the road.

The ground and pavement are very unlevel at the corner of Bridgestone and Eagleson – large puddles of water – pavement has been noticeably patched year over year.

Pedestrians did not feel safe walking to/ from Romina to Bridgestone via Eagleson Road.



APPENDIX 1

TRAFFIC COUNT STUDY: (2015 and 2018)

Eagleson/Romina & Emerald Meadows Drive traffic count:

In the past Bridlewood Trails Retirement Community has requested a traffic study for Eagleson & Romina in an effort to investigate a pedestrian signal for their senior residents to cross.

The last traffic count study was completed in **May 13, 2015**.

At that time, the results met only **65%** of the traffic signal and only **12%** for a pedestrian signalization requirement. This was not high enough.

Three years has passed, the Council on Aging (COA) was successful in getting the City and Transportation group to agree to conduct another traffic count study in 2018.

On July 31st, 2018 a traffic count took place at the corner of Eagleson Rd/Emerald Meadows/Romina. It was conducted by a summer student.

Note: Last two weeks of July are typically Ottawa's highest vacation period of the summer.

