

Tinti, Elisa

From: Brittany Cline <baclinehair@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Proposed Sidewalks

Dear Members of the Common Council,

I'm writing as a concerned parent and resident to express my strong support for the proposed installation of sidewalks near Edson Elementary School. My daughter attends Edson, and like many families in our neighborhood, we walk to and from school daily. Having a sidewalk on Merilina from Vorhees up would be amazing- but please also consider extending it farther as many children come in from blocks beyond there, ourselves included.

Unfortunately, the lack of sidewalks in this area creates unsafe conditions for children, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times. With no clear separation between pedestrians and vehicles, families are often forced to walk on the road, increasing the risk of accidents. We just relocated back home to this area in January, and in 4 short months have had multiple close calls. Just last week, I was inches from getting hit by a parent on their cell racing down Merilina after dropping off their child.

Safe, walkable routes to school are essential. Sidewalks in this area would benefit the entire community and reflect our city's commitment to smart, family-friendly infrastructure.

I respectfully urge the Council to prioritize this much-needed improvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brittany Herwig
20 Boulder Ave

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Samantha Liotta <samm.liotta@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 5:18 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Merilina Ave. Sidewalk Project

Dear Members of the Kingston Common Council,

Thank you for hearing feedback regarding the situation on Merilina Ave in Uptown. I have been a resident of Merilina Ave. since 2015 and this is the worst I've seen the congestion and traffic. I've personally almost been hit by both cars and buses, I've had to hastily move my child and myself onto a neighbors lawn to avoid being clipped by cars and buses, and I've witnessed many other parents experience near misses. It is worse in the winter due to snow pile build up. I'm very happy to know of an upcoming survey for sidewalk placement.

I would, however, like to add that although the traffic is certainly very congested and unsafe between the school and Voorhees Ave., it would be most beneficial to have a survey conducted and sidewalk built from the school down to Boulder Ave.

Many parents are now opting to drive their children to school and in an effort to avoid the congestion and traffic that takes place at the school during the busy drop off and pick up hours, they park farther down on Merilina Ave. and walk their children up the street - therefore limiting the amount of walking area on either side of Merilina Ave. I've witnessed some even parking on my block of Merilina Ave. between Merritt Ave. and Boulder Ave. although I will say that is less common.

I encourage the Council to please consider expanding the survey to include Merilina Ave. starting at Boulder Ave. to the school and I sincerely thank you for hearing my community regarding this issue.

Best,
Samantha Liotta

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Christina Pickard <christinapickard@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Sara Pasti
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] A message for Common Council members - please forward

Hello,

I am a parent of two children - one at Edson, and one entering Bailey in the fall. I am writing **in strong support for the proposed sidewalk addition on Merilina Ave.** leading up to the schools' entrance.

We live too close to the school to be offered busing. We therefore (happily, because it's great exercise and far more eco-friendly!) walk to school every day, crossing busy Lucas Avenue and weaving our way through the residential streets surrounding Edson and Bailey schools (none of which have sidewalks). Every day my first grader and I navigate buses and traffic congestion particularly on the narrow, curved stretch of Merilena Ave leading up to the school; every day we come mere inches from these vehicles, and when it's snowy or icy, even closer. If it's garbage/recycling collection day, we have to weave around bins -- I even had a bin knocked over onto me by a car's side mirror once, such is the close proximity of the passing cars! The situation on this stretch of road has become very dangerous.

I am thrilled to hear that, after over a year of advocacy, this much-needed sidewalk installation is now being seriously considered. I want to again express my strong support as a taxpayer and parent for this project, for the safety of all children at Edson and Bailey schools.

-Christina Pickard

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Elissa Garay <travelspiritwriting@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 3:19 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Merilina Sidewalk Funding (Attn: Common Council)

Good morning, City Council Members,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed (and long-overdue) Merilina sidewalks project, ahead of the council's vote in June. My 7-year-old daughter is in her second year at Edson Elementary, and we are designated as "walkers," living just under the .5 mile marker to be eligible for a bus. We absolutely love walking, but oftentimes do not feel safe. Our route consists of crossing a busy main corridor (Lucas Avenue), as well as navigating heavily congested streets with car and bus traffic, all of which do not have sidewalks. This is particularly apparent on Merilina Avenue, which services both Edson and Bailey Middle School. Walking is a wonderful and practical mode of transit, but certainly raises concerns when safety is on the line. Having some stretch of sidewalk as an oasis on this part of our walking commute would help reduce risk and make walking a safer and more viable modality for Edson and Bailey schoolchildren. Many thanks for your work on this important initiative.

Best,
Elissa Garay
34 Dunneman Ave, Kingston, NY
347-971-1014

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