

From: [Tara Warder](#)
To: [Tara Warder](#)
Subject: FW: Please reconsider CP Rail Trail upgrade
Date: December 2, 2021 3:14:31 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Paul, AaKash, Honorable Grey County Counsellors, My Valued Representatives,

I am a long-time resident of Markdale, fellow daily walker like yourself, Aakash (I have often seen you trek by my home on Edith), and Canadian deeply concerned for the environment and impacts of Climate Change. I was present when the Grey Highlands Council voted to declare that we faced a Climate Crisis and that all decisions going forward shall consider Climate Change Mitigation and Environmental Impacts. I felt reassured and relieved that this decision was taken.

I recently learned of plans to upgrade the CP Rail Trail from Berkeley to Dundalk. If there is hope of the Council reconsidering plans for the trail, I would like to add my thoughts which represent not only myself and family but others here in the village especially among the walkers regularly out for exercise and the peace it brings us.

The truth is that our portion is not used by regular walkers other than the occasional individual and their dog. (Askash, as a walker I'm certain that you've made similar observations.) I have never seen anyone on bicycle. In winter, those on snow shoes and skis rarely venture out due to personal risk.

The council is correct, this valuable recreational trail requires attention. However, it is primarily used by motorized vehicles; all-terrain vehicles spring, summer and fall with snowmachine operators all winter long. Use by all-terrain vehicles, particularly, has increased by a huge factor recently, perhaps as a consequence of Covid 19 limiting other recreational opportunities. The generous parking lot available to motorized vehicle clubs/organizations here in Markdale has brought many users from all around the area and surely, many from outside the county.

My points:

1. The trails have been torn up by these machines making them unsuitable for walking or cycling They will require continuous maintenance. (Do All-Terrain Clubs pay for use?)
2. I do not believe machine operation and pedestrian/cycling/skiing use is compatible. (I have never seen hikers on the trail from Berkeley to Owen Sound on my trips north on Highway 10)

3. WE MUST TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS. COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGING FOSSIL FUEL USE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. (I understand that machine operators must have a voice in the matter. I appreciate the pleasure motoring has brought many Grey County residents but they also have, now more than ever, a responsibility in the matters of Climate Change, Environment and of course trail maintenance. If this activity is to continue, owners/users must be encouraged to 'Go ELECTRIC'....this would be a valuable initiative for council in my mind.)

Issues of cost for the project, I will leave to others! Paul and Aakash, I would appreciate you carrying my appeal forward.

Sincerely,
Sue Near