



## Pedestrian Charter Steering Committee

c/o Together 4 Health 99 Regina St. S. Waterloo, ON N2J 4V3  
Phone: 519-883-2000 Email: [pedestriancharter@together4health.ca](mailto:pedestriancharter@together4health.ca)  
[www.together4health.ca/pedestriancharter](http://www.together4health.ca/pedestriancharter)

---

March 23, 2010

Project Team - Central Library Renovation & Expansion  
85 Queen St North  
Kitchener, ON N2H 2H1

### **Re: Best practices for walkability in the design of the new Central Library Renovation & Expansion**

Members of the Project Team for the Central Library Renovation & Expansion,

We are writing to provide feedback on the design for the Main Branch of the Kitchener Public Library. We applaud your efforts to aspire to a library of high LEED standards. Walking is the one form of transportation that puts the least strain in the environment. We encourage you to include best practices for walkability in the design of the new public library and its site. We believe that applying the principles of the Pedestrian Charter to the project, as adopted by the City of Kitchener and the Region of Waterloo, will contribute to the safety, sustainability, and accessibility of our community.

Since the public library is an important destination for many who live, work and go to school within walking distance, we believe that it is very important that the renovation and expansion of the library be regarded as an opportunity to improve the walking environment around and within the library site. Specifically we would like you to consider the following:

1. The two large blocks affected by the library project presently need improvement in the connectivity of the site to the streets beyond. Building continuous sidewalks on both sides of all the streets affected by this project, including Otto Street will improve site connectivity.
2. Pedestrian safety has to have higher priority at the intersections of Queen Street North and Ahrens and Roy streets. Presently many pedestrians cross the street at these intersections at their peril, and will continue to do so in the future. It is very important that measures are taken to make it safe to cross the street. Doing so, will not only improve the pedestrian environment, it will likely encourage more people of all ages, including the most vulnerable, to choose to walk to the library.
3. Pedestrians prefer smaller city blocks. We encourage you to include pedestrian sidewalks within the block to facilitate travel within and across the two large blocks affected by the library project. We suggest too that these sidewalks be lined with greenery, seating, and adequate lighting.
4. We note that the proposal for this project overlooks the opportunity to use the character-filled historic wall of the Governors House and County Gaol. Putting such a delightful façade to work to improve the pedestrian environment of the Library block should be a priority. Not only would pedestrians benefit from the pleasure of walking alongside one of the more interesting walls in our city, but also they would be able to enjoy the convenience of walking along what is presently a natural break within the block. Further, if the wall falls into irrelevance at the expense of the parking garage the pedestrian environment would be sacrificed to benefit those who drive to the library. We encourage you to reconsider the treatment of the wall of the Governors House and County Gaol to improve the pedestrian environment within the block.

We believe that applying to the project the principles of the Pedestrian Charter to the library, as adopted by the City of Kitchener and the Region of Waterloo, will contribute to the safety and sustainability of our community, and will improve the library experience not only for those who arrive by foot, but for citizens and library users in general.

We wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the library project, and for considering our feedback.  
Yours truly,

Margaret Santos,  
On behalf of the Pedestrian Charter Steering Committee

Proudly supported by Together 4 Health

