

Denzil Minnan-Wong

COUNCILLOR, DON VALLEY EAST, WARD 34

May 7, 2010

Councillor Bill Saundercook
Co-Chair, Pedestrian Committee
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.,
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dylan Reid, Co-Chair, Pedestrian Committee
c/o Maria Kolominsky, Committee Secretary
City Hall, 10W
100 Queen St. W.,
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members of the Pedestrian Committee,

Crosswalk Ground Signs Can Improve Pedestrian Safety

I am writing to ask the Committee to request a Report from Staff on the merits of improving pedestrian safety through the use of stationary ground signs on roadways to regulate Pedestrian Crosswalks (PXO's).

PXO's are a very effective way to enhance pedestrian safety. They allow a clear, identified path for pedestrians to cross on busy streets and instruct drivers to stop and allow pedestrians safe passage along roadways. In the City of Toronto, PXO's are traditionally identified by painted lines on the roadway with crosswalk lights overhead. These lights are push-button activated and flash to indicate to vehicles that a pedestrian is crossing the road.

PXO's are also very expensive and can cost in excess of \$30,000 for their installation. These costs prohibit a wider distribution of crosswalks in neighbourhood locations which could benefit from the added safety benefits they offer in front of schools, churches, plaza's and other places that have high traffic.

Recently, while I was in New Jersey, I observed that crosswalks were identified through the use of highly visible, large, ground signs painted in a bright florescent yellow with a stop sign requiring vehicles to stop and yield to pedestrians. These signs were located on either side of a painted strip that served as the crosswalk.



This innovative idea could be used in the city of Toronto. The signs are a fraction of the cost of a Toronto PXO and could be deployed throughout neighbourhood streets where there is high pedestrian traffic.

In this regard, I would request staff investigate the merits of this system and its effectiveness in other jurisdictions. I would also ask city staff to report on any provincial regulations that may have to be amended to implement such a system. For your information, I have raised this issue with Kathleen Wynne, the Provincial Minister of Transportation who invited me to write to her in this regard.

As our city continues to grow, residents in my community and across the city are becoming increasingly concerned with the increase in volume and speed of traffic on neighbourhood streets. One of the tools in the transportation safety toolbox is the greater use of PXO's to promote pedestrian safety. I believe, and I hope the committee agrees, that this idea deserves careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denzil Minnan-Wong". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong