



Robin Buxton Potts
Officer, Government & Stakeholder Relations
Evergreen

November 06, 2017

Members of Council
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Item PW24.5 Speed Limit on Bayview Avenue from Pottery Road (Northerly Intersection) to River Street Ramp

Dear Mayor Tory and City Council.

Since 2010, Evergreen has been proud to call the Brick Works our national headquarters. Evergreen Brickworks is located within the Don Valley on the north side of Bayview Avenue at the foot of the Moore Park Ravine and just to the west of the CPR Belleville Sub-Division rail viaduct over the Don River. Bayview Avenue forms the only means by which vehicular (including emergency service) access can be provided to the Brick Works given the steepness of the valley sides as they rise into the surrounding Rosedale and Governor's Bridge residential areas.

Since occupying the site at Evergreen Brickworks, we have been actively engaged in augmenting the transportation options for all visitors – those who arrive by car, transit, bike, and foot.

In July 2016, City Council unanimously endorsed the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, which included the reduction of the regulatory speed limit on various streets including Bayview Avenue, between Pottery Road (northerly intersection) and River Street Ramp, from 60 km/h to 50 km/h.

Evergreen applauded Council's decision to implement the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, while we understand that concerns have been expressed about the disparity between the speed limit and the speeds at which drivers are travelling, **we believe that to maintain safe access to Evergreen Brick Works and the surrounding area, speed limits should remain at 50km/h.**

evergreen.ca

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We have worked closely with the City of Toronto on the improvement of the public trail and pathway connections within and around the Brick Works property. This includes connections across Bayview Avenue between the Beltline Trail and the Don Trail on the east side of the Don River.

We advocated for and helped with the establishment of a regular TTC bus service on Bayview Avenue and the use of special, charter bus services running from Broadview Station.

In order to provide enhanced and safe vehicular access to the Brick Works site we worked with the city of Toronto on the installation of a new traffic signal at the existing site driveway. This has not only provided for safe vehicular access to / from the Brick Works, but also formalized and safe pedestrian / bicycle crossing facilities over Bayview Avenue that would serve to link trail systems on either side of this arterial road.

There are now well over 3,000 people accessing the Evergreen Brick Works site each weekend, over 500,000 visitors a year, who together have provided \$100 Million in support of the local economy.

The improvements described above are critical to the safety of drivers, pedestrians and cyclists who access our award-winning site. Despite these enhancements pedestrians and cyclists who attempt to access our site – those who cross Bayview Avenue in particular – are at risk. We continue to see pedestrians and cyclists accessing the west side of Bayview to reach the site, and travel south on Bayview.

Evergreen is also increasing our educational and art programming into the lower don valley path. We will regularly be escorting school group across Bayview and we are worried that increasing the speed limit puts them at greater risk.

If drivers are already driving upwards of 30KM/H above the speed limit, we are concerned that increasing the speed limit will encourage them to go even faster. We would like to see road and design improvements to discourage speeding, rather than risking death or injury to residents accessing Bayview or visitors accessing our site.

Kind Regards,

Robin Buxton Potts, Officer, Government & Stakeholder Relations

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