



Joe Cressy 周凱捷

City Councillor | Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

May 21, 2019

Toronto and East York Community Council
City Hall, Committee Room 1
100 Queen St W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

Re: Road Safety at the intersection of Fleet Street, Bathurst Street, and Lake Shore Boulevard West

The massive five-arm intersection of Bathurst, Lake Shore, and Fleet doesn't work well for anyone. It is a danger and a barrier for pedestrians, it is confusing for drivers and has a high rate of vehicle collisions, and it delays two streetcar lines. This intersection should tie together the three adjacent neighbourhoods – Bathurst Quay, Fort York, and CityPlace – but instead it separates them from one another.

Going back at least as far as 2004, before the Fort York and CityPlace neighbourhoods were constructed, the City of Toronto has made plans for reconfiguring this intersection. In 2006, City Council endorsed closing vehicular access to one block of westbound Fleet Street between Bathurst Street and Iannuzzi Street, which would shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and simplify the intersection for drivers.

Concern about this intersection was one of the most common themes I heard from community members throughout the consultations for the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan in 2014 and 2015. In July, 2015, City Council gave direction to City staff to revisit the feasibility of such a closure (TE7.60).

In addition, in 2018, City Council approved the Waterfront Transit Network Plan (EX30.1) including a long-term goal to completely reconfigure the intersection of Bathurst, Lake Shore, and Fleet by relocating streetcar tracks and permanently pedestrianizing the adjacent block of Fleet Street. As part of the Waterfront Transit Network Plan, I fought for and secured City Council authority to pilot quick, short-term improvements to the intersection that don't need to wait for the full, long-term reconfiguration.

After years of study and approval, progress is long overdue on safety improvements here. City staff are currently preparing a report on any outstanding approvals needed from City Council in order to finally try closing the block of westbound Fleet Street to vehicles from Bathurst to Iannuzzi. With a target to implement the closure this summer when traffic volumes are lowest, it is necessary for City Council to give direction in June, which is unfortunately not possible under the standard reporting timelines. I am requesting that Toronto and East York Council authorize City staff to report directly to City Council about these matters.



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Recommendations:

Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Request the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto & East York District, with the Director, Transit and Transportation Planning, City Planning, to report directly to the June 18, 2019 meeting of City Council regarding any final remaining approvals necessary for the pedestrianization of Fleet Street between Bathurst Street and Iannuzzi Street, to be implemented during the summer of 2019.

Sincerely,

Joe Cressy