



The Executive Committee  
University of Toronto Students' Union  
12 Hart House Circle  
Toronto, ON, M5S3J9

To the Toronto and East York Community Council:

**Re: Letter of Support - Item TE11.47, Mid-Block Pedestrian Traffic Control Signals - Queen's Park Crescent West, Queen's Park**

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union, please accept this letter as an endorsement of the three proposed mid-block pedestrian traffic control signals that are to be located on Queen's Park Crescent.

The University of Toronto Students' Union represents over 38,000 full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto St. George Campus. We, along with our student body, are always supportive of measures that would increase safety and accessibility to the entirety of our campus.

The three proposed mid-block pedestrian traffic control signals would solve multiple issues that our students currently face, foremost among them being that it would reduce the required amount of time to travel between our classes. Currently, students feel as though they do not have the time or ability to travel between their classes without crossing at the proposed sites.

For further context, the University of Toronto operates their classes on something that students and professors colloquially refer to as "UofT Time" -- which simply means that classes begin exactly ten minutes after the hours (e.g.: A class that starts at 1:00pm will actually begin at 1:10pm). It is not uncommon for a student to have a class that is located at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street) followed by a class located at Victoria College (91 Charles Street West). This walk, which recommends using the current unofficial crossing adjacent to Hart House, still takes a student roughly fifteen minutes to complete.

The addition of these mid-block pedestrian traffic control signals would further ensure student safety at night, as many students currently cross Queen's Park by walking through Museum Station located at Charles Street. This station closes its doors at night, and many students run across Queen's Park as a result. In regards to the site closest to College Street, the inclusion of this site would be beneficial for students as we have received multiple reports of students encountering threat of robbery or violence in Queen's Park, and any measures to mitigate these issues are welcome and needed, including adding a crossing that allows students to cross from the east side to the west side of campus without needing to cross through Queen's Park.

The proposed mid-block pedestrian traffic control signals can only serve to improve our overall campus and community. We thank City Staff and anyone else involved for their work on the proposal.

Yours in service,

The University of Toronto Union Students' Union Executive Committee