

Marilyn Toft - Fwd: Petition Concerning the Completion of the North York Centre Service Road, City Council Item PW31.9

From: Angela Sweeney <[REDACTED]>
 To: <clerk@toronto.ca>
 Date: 06/06/2014 3:08 PM
 Subject: Fwd: Petition Concerning the Completion of the North York Centre Service Road, City Council Item PW31.9
 CC: Dennis Rak <[REDACTED]>
 Attachments: PW31.9, Dennis Rak Deposition, 14May2014.pdf

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 10, 2014 City Council meeting on item 2014.PW31.9, North York Centre South Service Road - Environmental Assessment Addendum Study

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments: Hi, my name is Angela Sweeney, I'm a volunteer intern with ACCA. Dennis asked that I forward the email below to you so that it is available for the Councillors at the meeting on Tuesday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dennis Rak** <dennis.acca@hotmail.com>
 Date: Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 8:40 PM

Subject: Petition Concerning the Completion of the North York Centre Service Road, City Council Item PW31.9

To: Ana Bailao <councillor_bailao@toronto.ca>, Anthony Perruzza <councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca>, Cesar Palacio <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, Chin Lee <councillor_lee@toronto.ca>, Counillor Ainslie <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, David Shiner <councillor_shiner@toronto.ca>, Denzil Minnan-Wong <councillor_minnan-wong@toronto.ca>, Doug Ford <councillor_dford@toronto.ca>, Frances Nunziata <councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca>, Frank Di Giorgio <councillor_digiorgio@toronto.ca>, Gary Crawford <councillor_crawford@toronto.ca>, Giorgio Mammoliti <councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca>, Glenn De Baeremaeker <councillor_debaeremaeker@toronto.ca>, Gloria Lindsay Luby <councillor_lindsay_luby@toronto.ca>, Gord Perks <councillor_perks@toronto.ca>, James Pasternak <councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca>, Janet Davis <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, Jaye Robinson <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, Jo Mihevc <councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca>, John Parker <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, Josh Colle <councillor_colle@toronto.ca>, Josh Matlow <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>, Karen Stintz <councillor_stintz@toronto.ca>, Kristyn Wong-Tam <councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca>, Maria Augimeri <councillor_augimeri@toronto.ca>, Mark Grimes <councillor_grimes@toronto.ca>, Mary Fragedakis <councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca>, Mary-Margaret McMahon <councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca>, Michael Thompson <councillor_thompson@toronto.ca>, Michelle Berardinetti <councillor_berardinetti@toronto.ca>, Mike Del Grande <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, Mike Layton <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, Norm Kelly <councillor_kelly@toronto.ca>, Pam McConnell <councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca>, Paula Fletcher <councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca>, Peter Leon <councillor_leon@toronto.ca>, Raymond Cho <councillor_cho@toronto.ca>, Ron Moeser <councillor_moeser@toronto.ca>, Sarah Doucette <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, Shelley Carroll <councillor_carroll@toronto.ca>, Vincent Crisanti <councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca>
 Cc: Angela Sweeney <[REDACTED]>, Tim Bloos <[REDACTED]>

Petition Concerning the Completion of the North York Center Service Road

Dear Toronto City Councillors:

My name is Dennis Rak, Chair of the Avondale Community Condominium Association (ACCA).

ACCA is a not-for-profit, non-partisan volunteer association of 17 condominium Boards of Directors representing approximately 13,000 residents within the Avondale community, located east of Yonge Street between Sheppard Avenue and Highway 401.

I am reaching out to you for assistance in regards to the last section to be completed of the North York Centre South Service Road, which will consist of an extension of Doris Avenue to Avondale Avenue by a means of a signalized intersection across Sheppard Avenue East.

In this matter the Avondale community has been, and continues to be, at a disadvantage in terms of advocacy, as our Willowdale, Ward 23 Councillor John Fillion, with whom I have enjoyed a mutually respectful relationship over several years, is in a conflict of interest position due to a litigation against the City and himself.

On May 14, 2014 the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee adopted the motion to accept the recommendation in the Staff Report dated April 15, 2014.

Link to Staff Report:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/pw/bgrd/backgroundfile-68949.pdf>

Link to Motion adopted:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PW31.9>

The Staff Report has recommended *Option D (Offset Intersection and Realign Doris Avenue)*, as this design meets their objective to minimize both impact on properties and land acquisition costs.

This design solution is similar to the offset intersection of Mt. Pleasant Road and Lawrence Avenue East, which is complex and confounding to motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

As Avondale community leader, I read my deposition at the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Meeting 31, on May 14th, to Item PW31.9 - see transcript, attached.

On behalf of the Avondale community, and to the interests of the greater condominium community immediately to its north, I argued the criteria for selecting a design option should be to maximize both public safety and traffic flow.

According to the Staff Report, both *Option B* and the *1998 ESR Addendum* recommended design meet these criteria, which are the Avondale community's preferred designs.

The Staff Report acknowledges their recommended *Option D* does not maximize traffic flow or public safety through the offset intersection.

Though the Staff Report, *Attachment 4, Public Consultation and Public/Agency Comments*, makes a formal comparative summary of *Options A-D*, it does not include the *1998 ESR Addendum* in this comparison, nor does it make reference to its own published *Results of March 5, 2014 Public Consultation Event*:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=8c9ddd7ce23d5410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextchannel=d6673a047f332410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextfmt=default>

Clearly, this Public Consultation identified traffic circulation and public safety as its top priorities, which the Staff Report has chosen to ignore in its recommendation. This patent disregard for public safety is unconscionable.

Further, to the current state of traffic congestion, and with further regard to additional development pressure identified in the recent Yonge North Planning Study, there is no reasonable basis for not constructing a design at this time that maximizes safe vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist flow through the proposed intersection.

There is community resolve to get it right now, the first time, by constructing a design that maximizes flow of all modes of transportation together with highest regard for public safety through this intersection, and to not have to re-visit this matter in the future.

City Council will be voting on the Staff Report recommendation on June 10-11.

The Avondale community is seeking your support in that City Council not adopt PW31.9, and to have either of our preferred *Option B* or, the *1998 ESR Addendum* recommended design to be constructed.

In these regards, we hope you accept our plea, and respectfully seek your support at the City Council vote.

I may be reached at [416-741-8674](tel:416-741-8674) to speak with you on this matter of great importance and consequence to the Avondale community and beyond.

Kind regards,

Dennis Rak, Chair

ACCA

Avondale

Community

Condominium

Association

May 14, 2014

RE: PW31.9, North York Centre South Service Road – Environmental Assessment Study Addendum (Ward 23)

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, and members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

My name is Dennis Rak, and I am here today as Chair of the Avondale Community Condominium Association, or ACCA, which was founded in year 2004 in Willowdale Ward 23.

ACCA is a not-for-profit-, non-partisan association of condominium Boards of Directors within the Avondale community, which is bounded by Sheppard Avenue to the North, Highway 401 to the South, Yonge Street to the West, and Glendora Park to the East.

The Avondale condo community currently consists of 17 condominium corporations, with approximately 13,000 residents inhabiting an area of about one square kilometer.

Additionally, to existing zoning permissions, we are expecting the Avondale community to grow by another 30%. And, our Avondale schools are also being planned to increase student population by at least 50%, plus add a Daycare Centre.

Thus, the proposed South Service Road will have the greatest local impact on the Avondale community, both now and in the future.

From the recent EA Assessment Addendum, "Option D" has been identified as the preferred solution for road re-alignments and signalized intersections.

It is ACCA's view that the South Service Road should maximize traffic flow together with maximum regard for pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular safety.

ACCA believes "Option D" falls short of this objective.

As "Option D" proposes two offset-T signalized intersections with four signalized phases, this arrangement not only does not optimize traffic flow along Doris and Tradewind, but will impede traffic flow across Sheppard Avenue East, East of Yonge Street, while compromising public safety.

ACCA regards "Option D" as a kind of "fast food" solution that would be an improvement over the existing condition, but far from ideal.

With additional development also coming along the Yonge corridor from Sheppard Avenue to Drewry/Cummer, and a further 17,000-30,000 condo units being planned north along Yonge Street to Steeles Avenue in the Yonge North Study, there will be an increased need for traffic flow along the South Service Road in the foreseeable future.

Thus, it is ACCA's position for the nominal increase in the construction costs that either of our recommended solutions represent, especially with regard to the massive development charges that have been, and will be, collected within the North York Centre, there is no reasonable, or sensible excuse for not getting the South Service Road right the first time, as we have the opportunity now.

The "Tradewind Option" or "Option B" will maximize vehicle flow and pedestrian and cycle safety now and in the future.

ACCA recommends that this Committee and Council adopts either of these solutions for the South Service Road through the Avondale community.

Thank you.