

bloor-yorkville

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

March 26, 2015

His Worship Mayor John Tory and
Toronto City Councillors
City Hall - 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Sent Via Email: clerk@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors:

**RE: City of Toronto Council Meeting – March 31, 2015 Agenda Item PW 2.2
Support – Removal of Bay & Bloor Pedestrian Scramble Signal**

Since the City installed 2 pedestrian scramble intersections on Bloor Street, in tandem, over 4 ½ years ago, as a 'pilot project', traffic has become very heavily congested on one of the most significant east west traffic corridors in Toronto. On a daily basis, there are periods of gridlock, due to prolonged wait times, creating traffic back up on the adjoining side streets and impacting the Bay Street bus schedule.

On behalf of the 1600 businesses located in the Bloor-Yorkville community, we are expressing our full support of a very well researched City Staff report, which recommends removal of the pedestrian scramble signal as soon as possible, at the intersection of Bay and Bloor.

Beyond the installation of 2 pedestrian priority intersections, over the last several years, a number of additional measures have been made to improve the pedestrian experience in the Bloor-Yorkville community to include:

- widened sidewalks on Bloor Street,
- mid-block pedestrian crossing on Bloor between Bay Street and Avenue Road,
- mid-block pedestrian crossing on Yonge Street between Bloor Street and Davenport, which will soon become a fully signalized intersection at Yonge Street & Yorkville Avenue, and
- new signalized intersection at Cumberland Street and Bay Street, immediately north of Bloor.

We recognize that some view the removal of the Bay/Bloor pedestrian scramble, on a broader scale, as 'anti-pedestrian', when it simply is one particular measure that did not work, at this one particular location and the facts of which have been thoroughly researched and clearly presented in the Staff Report.

We strongly encourage members of Council to adopt the recommendations of the Staff Report.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Dr. David Homer
Traffic Committee Chair
Bloor-Yorkville BIA

