Runnymede Public School Council
357 Runnymede Road
Toronto, ON
M6S 2Y7

EYCC

Feb. 15th, 2017

Re: Bumpouts on Kennedy Avenue Item number EY20.26:
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EY20.26

Dear EYCC:

On behalf of Runnymede's School Council, we thank you for your efforts to make our roads safer for our children. We look forward to hearing further details about the recommendations for our school from Transportation's Safety Unit. We are requesting the maximum allowable safety measures be implemented for our school.

Runnymede Public School (Runnymede PS) is one of the largest elementary schools in Toronto, with over 1,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. In addition, the school is home to the Runnymede Adventure Club (RAC); which provides before and after school care and summer camps for hundreds of kids in the community. Most students walk to school and we want everyone to feel safe about getting to school.

At our Council meeting on Thursday Jan. 26th, 2017, the topic of road safety was raised, and after much input and discussion, here are the suggestions we have agreed upon for improving road safety at Runnymede PS:

## KENNEDY AVENUE (Glenwood Avenue to Evelyn Crescent)

-Install bump-outs at the top and bottom of the street. This measure will force cars to slow down that are going up and down this busy student street. A student has already been hit on Kennedy Ave, with many more close calls parents have observed. The upper bump out will result in the added benefit of creating a 'NO PARKING' zone by the Kennedy Entrance Ramp of the school. Currently, cars that are parked in front of the Entrance Ramp block a child's ability to see moving vehicles and vice versa. Too often, students dart out from between parked cars to cross the road and drivers don't see them. Ideally, they should be crossing at the intersection at the top of the road, but since there is no STOP sign for southbound vehicles on Kennedy, children have to take a risk when crossing across Kennedy Avenue no matter where they cross. Signs are not effective enough to slow cars down in this instance.

-Clearly mark the 'NO PARKING' zone with yellow or white paint markings so that vehicles do not park there and block the access and sightlines for pedestrians and strollers.

-Add road markings that indicate 'SCHOOL' to alert drivers.

Kennedy Avenue is often used by drivers, as a short cut to Bloor Street, with cars heading south on Runnymede, turning left onto Glenwood Ave., then making a sharp right onto Kennedy Avenue, and zipping down a street with a steep and winding decline. Cars easily pick up speed going down the hill, and there are many blind spots that make it difficult for moving vehicles to stop safely for students and pedestrians.

We are also mindful of our school neighbours such as: Western Tech, Ursula Franklin Academy, Angel Gate Daycare (at Runnymede United Church), in that changes to our streets will also directly benefit these young children and students. In addition, the recommended changes will benefit the nearby residents, pedestrians, seniors and entire community surrounding Runnymede These safety measure also align with the City of Toronto's "Vision Zero" strategy to reduce the high number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads each year.

We believe it is just a matter of time before a preventable tragedy happens with the high volume of students at Runnymede (and nearby schools), and with commuters using these busy streets every day. We will continue to work with your office towards approval and implementation of these changes as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Dale Cadeau
Council Chair
416.453.2680
Runnymede Public School Council

CC: Principal Rob Hochberg
Councillor Sarah Doucette