

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Dear Chair and Members of Committee

The DUKE Heights BIA has over 2,500 businesses employing over 32,000 people in our area. As one of the City of Toronto's BIA's, few issues have been brought up to us in our outreach efforts to understand the needs of the area's businesses as the problem of congestion. Dufferin and its bus only HOV is a common irritant for many of the drivers in the area, but we have always supported transit solutions for the reduction of congestion. The DUKE Heights BIA supports the change of the bus-only HOV lane on Dufferin Street, north of Sheppard into a multiple vehicle HOV lane.

The extension of the subway to York University and beyond has meant that the primary reason for providing the express bus only HOV lane on Dufferin no longer exists. Changing this lane so that other vehicles can now use it will relieve the serious traffic congestion in the vicinity with obvious benefits.

The DUKE Heights BIA, however, respectfully requests that use of the HOV lane be accessible to all vehicle with 2 or more occupants and that the City staff report recommendation be amended to show this.

Across southern Ontario HOV lanes in many places have 2 passengers as a minimum requirement, rather than 3. Examples in the GTA are the QEW and Hwy 404. We feel that consistency is important in order to obtain community compliance and avoid confusion and our knowledge of the area tells us that with 2 occupants more vehicles will use the HOV lane, thus better achieving the congestion reduction objectives. We also recommend that staff report back to the Committee after a year to assess the effect of the changes being implemented.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration

Sincerely,



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