

Monday, July 2nd, 2018

To whom it may concern,

The OCAD Student Union would like to first thank the city council for agreeing to add the discussion of a safe crossing option to the July 4th council meeting.

The need for a safe crossing option from Duncan and McCaul on Queen Street is an issue the SU has been working on for many years. Even prior to the expansion of OCAD University's campus to Richmond Street, the lack of a safe option to cross Queen Street in this area was a concern; and when the school decided to start holding classes in 205 Richmond, our concern increased.

To travel to and from classes, OCADU students must cross Queen Street, often multiple times a day, putting themselves at risk each time. In addition to there being no place to cross, the fact that there is no signage to make drivers aware that pedestrians are likely to cross in that area allows vehicles to approach at high speeds and without being aware of their surroundings. This, in combination with the increased amount of foot traffic, creates an extremely high risk of accidents.

While travelling, students may be carrying heavy equipment and large sized materials from their classes in 100 McCaul to those at 205 Richmond Street. These items such as cameras, lights, canvases, easels and more can block the view of approaching vehicles and prevent students from being able to cross quickly in order to avoid being hit. Additionally for students who try to cross safely, this involves making a detour over to cross at Queen Street and St. Patrick Street, a decision that adds unnecessary travel time to students that are already rushing to make it to their class.

The Student Union believes that it is in the shared interest of OCADU and the City of Toronto to make sure that a safe crossing option is created, as this will significantly lower the risk of pedestrians being hit. It is the responsibility of the city to ensure the safety of all residents of Toronto, and in creating a safe option will not only benefit OCADU students but also save lives.

Signed,
The OCAD Student Union Executive Team

