



April 5, 2021

To: City Council

Re: MM31.31 – I'm Walking Here – Clarifying No Exit Signage for Pedestrians

Dear City Councillors,

Walk Toronto is very pleased to see a proposal for the City of Toronto to take action on rectifying the problem of “No Exit” signs where there is, in fact, an exit for pedestrians. We urge City Council to approve this resolution.

In February 2021, Walk Toronto took the initiative to develop a map of locations where a “No Exit” or “No Access” sign is present, but in fact an exit exists for pedestrians and, sometimes, cyclists. We invited people to submit locations, and currently the Google map, titled “[Not Dead Ends for Pedestrians](#),” has over 450 locations identified.

This issue is not a minor one, in other words – there are hundreds of locations, in every ward of the city, where the existing signage does not give an accurate indication of available routes and does not take the movement of people on foot or on bikes into account.

The pandemic has led many more people to walk in their neighbourhoods, and as they get to know their community, they have become more acutely aware of this kind of misleading signage. At the same time, the City of Toronto has realized the value of walking for health, mobility, and the environment. That commitment requires that the City’s signs consider the needs of walkers as equal to the needs of drivers.

It is time for the City of Toronto to change this situation and establish more inclusive and accurate signage that provides information to all travellers, not just drivers.

The ideal solution would be signage that specifies “No Exit for Motor Vehicles,” with a pendant sign indicating that there is an exit for pedestrians, or pedestrians and cyclists, and identifying where that exit leads to. It would also note any accessibility challenges.

However, if that solution is not feasible, then at least a pendant to “No Exit” signs that says “Pedestrians Excepted” or “Pedestrians and Cyclists Excepted” would be a start. These could be similar to the “Bicycles excepted” signs that have been added to “No Entry” signs where cycling contra-flow lanes have been introduced on one-way streets.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid

On behalf of Walk Toronto