

12 October 2023

Dear Chair James Pasternak and Members of NYCC,

On behalf of the Leaside Residents Association, Inc, I am writing with regard to **Action Item 2023.NY8.23, "Traffic Control Signals- Bayview Avenue and Sutherland Drive"**, which is also a recommendation of the Leaside Neighbourhood Transportation Plan.

This area has been a major safety concern for many years. Pedestrians and cyclists cross Bayview on foot between Mt Pleasant Cemetery and Leaside in spite of heavy (and often speeding) north/south traffic on Bayview. The traffic lights at Bayview/Moore Avenue and Bayview/Merton Street-McRae Drive are sufficiently far apart to encourage crossing midway. Just to witness people weaving in and out, some of them with canes, strollers or leashed dogs, attempting to avoid being injured, is a hair-raising experience.

TTC Route 88 busdrivers also have difficulty pulling out of Sutherland Drive onto Bayview, particularly in the peak traffic times.

Transportation Services is recommending installation of traffic control signals at this intersection in an attempt to provide a safe crossing.

The Leaside Residents Association (LRA) Board supports this, but with the strong recommendation that measures be taken to ensure that the result will not encourage Bayview drivers to turn into or increase use of Sutherland. The LRA proposes, if the new traffic signal is approved, that traffic on Sutherland (and on Bessborough Drive, which is parallel to Bayview), be counted for a period both before and after installation, to measure actual statistics, and be promptly addressed if the result is undesirable.

We also have questions: would the traffic signal be operated by pushbutton (or transponder for TTC drivers)? Would timing allow for a head start signal for pedestrians? Would the red/stop signals be brief or the standard length? The longer the red light, the more likelihood that drivers will turn off Bayview.

There is no doubt that the current dangerous crossing situation needs to be effectively addressed. The LRA supports addressing it with a signal at this intersection.

Yours sincerely,
Carol Burtin Fripp
Co-Chair, Leaside Residents Association, Inc.

cc Councillor Jon Burnside
cc Councillor Shelley Carroll
cc Councillor Lily Cheng
cc Councillor Mike Colle
cc Councillor Jaye Robinson