



North York Community Council
October 15, 2023

RE: NY8.23 – Bayview Avenue and Sutherland Drive - Traffic Control Signals

To Councillor James Pasternak, Chair, and Members of North York Community Council,

Cycle Don Valley Midtown is the ward advocacy group for Cycle Toronto in Ward 15 and Ward 16. We strongly support the recommendation from Transportation Services to install a traffic signal at Bayview and Sutherland to create a safe crossing to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. We have no doubt that you will hear from countless people who like to walk or run in the cemetery and will support this recommendation so we will limit our comments to the concerns of people cycling.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery welcomes the public to enjoy the grounds and park-like space. The roadways are quiet, pavement is in excellent shape and are always cleared of snow well before most residential streets. It connects people to the Beltline Trail, Evergreen Brickworks and is a link between the bikeway on Yonge Street to points east through Leaside. The cemetery is well used by recreational cyclists as well as people commuting to school and work, or going to and from downtown. Across from the east entrance, Sutherland Drive provides a direct connection for people to the institutions on Kilgour Road and the Leaside Business Park via McRae Drive, as well as Sunnybrook Hospital and Sunnybrook Park.

Today, people on bikes accessing the cemetery through the east entrance have several poor choices. They can:

- cycle on Bayview Avenue in among fast moving traffic to the traffic signals at Moore Ave or McRae Drive to cross Bayview safely.
- cycle on the sidewalk to the nearest traffic signal to cross Bayview safely.
- wait for a gap in traffic to cross Bayview safely, often rushing to avoid oncoming traffic.

A traffic signal at Bayview and Sutherland Drive would eliminate forcing people to have to make dangerous and undesirable choices by facilitating safe access to and from the cemetery for people cycling.

We look forward to learning more about Transportation Services plans for the recommended traffic signal and how it will be activated and timed. To be safe and effective for people biking, we recommend that the intersection include:

- bike signals and lane markings for people on bikes
- curb cuts in the west side sidewalk on Bayview at the crossings
- a means of activating the signal
- a designated space on Sutherland Drive at Bayview for westbound cyclists waiting to cross
- parking restrictions on both sides of Bayview near the crossing to ensure clear sightlines of people crossing

During community consultations, concerns were raised about increased traffic volumes on Sutherland Drive resulting from a traffic signal at this intersection. City staff indicated that they can mitigate traffic infiltration through signal timing and turn restrictions. We think it would be prudent to measure traffic volumes both before and after the introduction of a traffic signal to see if the mitigation measures are effective and make adjustments based on experience.

As part of the community engagement on the Leaside Neighbourhood Transportation Plan (Agenda item – NY8:24), a safe crossing at this location was one of the top three requests from residents. We urge you to approve the recommendation of Transportation Services for a traffic signal and make it safe for people to get to this highly desired destination from Sutherland Drive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Geoff Kettel,
Phil Oliva,
Holly Reid,
On behalf of Cycle Don Valley Midtown Executive