

17 October 2023

Dear Chair Pasternak and Members of the North York Community Council:

On behalf of the Leaside Residents' Association. I am writing with regard to **Action Item 2023.8.24 (Leaside Neighbourhood Transportation Plan (Near-Term Plan))**

I begin by thanking Councillor Robinson for her original initiative in proposing this traffic study for the Leaside area, and also the members of the North York Community Council for having supported the endeavour over the past few years.

Leaside's concerns about traffic problems have been long-term, our major issue for the past half century.

So we were delighted and relieved that the City would undertake a new and neighbourhood-wide study, the Leaside Neighbourhood Transportation Plan.

We have now had a chance to actually read its just-released Phase One.

The LRA shares the stated goals and philosophy of the LNTP. But given the pressures already on Leaside thanks to the lengthy (and it seems eternal) construction of the LRT, and an ever increasing pace of development, the measures recommended in Phase One are very modest.

There is an appetite for bolder measures sooner.

In particular: we note that study and research on our *worst* traffic problems is delayed for a Leaside Neighbourhood Transportation Plan's Stage *Two*, apparently far into the future.

To quote from Phase One, "The long-term plan will need to be informed by neighbourhood changes associated with THE EGLINTON CROSSTOWN LINE 5; BIKEWAY INSTALLATION ON EGLINTON AVENUE EAST AND MILLWOOD ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS; PLANNING DIRECTIONS OF THE ONTARIO LINE; THE LAIRD IN FOCUS PLANNING AREA; AND PROPOSED AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES."

Clearly, it will be many years before all of the above projects are completed.

By that time Leaside's traffic problems will have grown even worse, and be much harder to address, let alone reduce.

The LNTP is an important step forward. We would like some official recognition added, regarding the urgency of proactive measures, however experimental or interim they might initially be.

As you approve the Agenda Item before you today, we hope you will also endorse this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Burtin Fripp
Co-Chair, Leaside Residents' Association
Chair, LRA Traffic and Transportation Committee