



THE ANNEX RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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April 04, 2023

Toronto and East York Community Council
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Dear Members of Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: TE4.66 - Pedestrian Safety on Avenue Road, Bloor Street West to St. Clair Avenue West

We are writing in support of the motion by Councillor Saxe to enhance pedestrian safety on the 2.1 km corridor of Avenue Road between Bloor St and St Clair Ave. A significant portion of that corridor constitutes the eastern boundary of the Annex Residents' Association (ARA) catchment, and, for that reason, its impact on the lives and well-being of our community is of great importance to us.

The ARA was one of several founding members of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) formed six years ago in response to the *Corridor Safety Study - Avenue Road* that had been undertaken by the City's Transportation Services in 2017. The study established what residents have long known: that more than 85% of vehicles using the corridor travel at or in excess of the posted speed limit of 50 km/h. The obvious danger posed by such speeds to passersby is self-evident. But a defining motivation for forming our coalition was the fact that the City's study focused entirely on road traffic: it did not once use the word "pedestrian."

The corridor was widened to six lanes in 1959-60 with the consequent narrowing of sidewalks, most of which fall below the City's minimum standard width. It remains an anomalous stretch of Avenue Road, both in its number of lanes and in its posted speed. Essentially it is a highway, and drivers treat it as such.

Much has changed in the decades since that short-sighted widening. There has been a considerable increase in pedestrian traffic generated from schools, day care centres, a food bank, retirement homes, and places of worship in addition to private homes. But the corridor has remained a hostile and dangerous throwback to a bygone era.

With the support of City councillors through whose wards the corridor runs, the City initiated the *Avenue Road Study* in the Fall of 2021 with a focus on immediate tactical interventions to tame the corridor until such time as full reconstruction can be completed. But the time for study is now past.

We support Councillor Saxe's motion to:

1. Bring the corridor immediately into alignment with the rest of Avenue Road by reducing the posted limits from 50 km/h to 40 km/h;
2. Request City Council to encourage Toronto Police Services to implement enhanced speed enforcement in the corridor;

3. Request that City Council mandate Transportation Services to install physical barriers on the west side of Avenue Road bordering the Church of the Messiah to protect users of the day care, food bank, and worship services that it hosts;
4. Request City Council to direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to report to his Community Council by Q4 2023 the results of its *Avenue Road Study* and public consultation, including progress on the action items set out in Councillor Saxe's present motion.

We respectfully urge you to support these initiatives in the name of pedestrian safety.

Yours truly,



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Chair, Annex Residents' Association

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