



Avenue Road Safety Coalition

Working for Safe Sidewalks on Avenue Road between Bloor St. & St. Clair Ave.

April 9th, 2023

Dear Members of the TEYCC

I am writing on behalf of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition, I am writing to support 2023.TE4.66, to be tabled on April 12, 2023 by Councillors Dianne Saxe and Josh Matlow.

The Avenue Safety Coalition (ARSC) represents the concerns of the residents, the elderly, people with disabilities, parents and children, pedestrians and cyclists, and those who visit and walk along Avenue Road between Bloor Street and St. Clair Avenue. Our coalition embodies the City's Planning Objective to **“create the right balance of space for pedestrians, cyclists, transit and vehicles.”** We believe that the current road configuration, the unsafe narrow sidewalks, and the excessive motor traffic speed will continue to contribute to collisions, injuries and deaths.

Since 2017, the ARSC has grown, buoyed by the support of many. Today we are supported by 21 community and Toronto-wide organizations, (shown here: <https://avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca/about/>) and also have a mailing list comprised of concerned residents, community members. In 2021, renowned public architects Brown and Storey Architects (BSA) presented a re-imagining of Avenue Road to the ARSC <https://www.brownandstorey.com/?s=avenue+road> that showed a bold, beautiful and safe vision for what is possible, and it inspired many in our communities to realize that this goal was achievable and necessary.

ARSC's mission beliefs are as follows:

- Speed limits must be reduced and enforced. A 2017 City of Toronto Avenue Corridor Safety Study identified that 85% of motor vehicles between Bloor and St Clair were travelling at or above the posted 50 km/h speed limit putting pedestrians at risk. With 5 schools and 4 seniors residences on or within close walking distance to Avenue Road, children and the elderly are particularly at risk.
- Many segments of the sidewalk in this stretch do not meet City standards and are less than 1.1 metres wide and intermittently obstructed by utility poles and sign posts that impede passage for people with strollers or mobility devices. Widen them. Scroll down this page to view photos and measurements: <https://avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca/about/>
- The 1950s design of this 2.1 km section of Avenue Road makes no sense. There is little reason for the road, which is four lanes north of St. Clair, to suddenly widen to six lanes, only to be constricted again south of Bloor. It is past time to fix this anomaly.
- Despite the growing concern about its impact on air quality, pedestrian safety, and the quality of life of the neighbourhoods it bisects, Avenue Road remains a relic of long-abandoned City policies.

The immediate measures raised in this motion don't involve a major overhaul of the road, and that these immediate measures can and should be taken. We are grateful that this motion is being presented, and heartened to see so many letters and comments submitted.

Best regards Arlene Desjardins,
On behalf of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition