



April 1st, 2023

Toronto East York Community Council,
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Toronto East York Community Council

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

The ABC Residents Association is a not for profit federally regulated community organization representing the interests of residents in the area bounded by Bloor Street to the South, the CPR tracks to the North, Yonge Street to the East and Avenue Rd to the West. The ABCRA is a founding member of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) and has a “vested” interest in the decisions that will be made for pedestrian safety improvements for this 2.1 km stretch of Avenue Road.

We are writing to encourage your support of Motion TE 4.66 that will provide an initial step in addressing the pedestrian safety concerns along this dangerous six lane speedway between St. Clair Avenue and Bloor Street West.

Since 2017, ABC and other Resident’s Associations and organizations became founding members of the ARSC, and have worked together with the support of our Councillors and City Transportation Staff to improve the livability of our residents and visitors who use Avenue Road as their walkway to area schools, parks and shops. The 2017 City of Toronto Avenue Corridor Safety Study identified that 85% of motor vehicles between Bloor Street and St Clair Avenue

West were travelling at or above the posted 50 km/h speed limit, putting pedestrians at risk. In May 2022, the city's Avenue Road Study survey results confirmed our community's concern with the high speed of vehicular traffic and insufficient space on sidewalks as their top concerns and indicated increased sidewalk widths and reduced vehicular speeding as their top priorities for change.

These speeding cars coupled with narrow sidewalks, many below the city standards for pedestrian safety, creates an imminent risk of serious injury and even death on Avenue Road.

Furthermore, the 1950s design of this 2.1 km section of Avenue Road is inconsistent with other parts of Avenue Road. There is no comprehensible 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 St.

It is time to take concrete action to address these pedestrians safety concerns.

The ABCRA respectfully requests the Members of the TEY Community Council to support these efforts to create a safe, healthy, climate-friendly Avenue Road, beginning with an immediate reduction of the lethal speeds and taking the next steps to investigate options for widening the substandard sidewalks.

Thank you and we look forward to our continued collaboration with you on these important road safety initiatives!

Sincerely

Ian Carmichael, Co Chair

The ABC Residents Association