



The voice
of our
community

April 7, 2023

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Cathrine Regan
teycc@toronto.ca

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

Dear Chair Councillor Gord Perks and Members, Toronto and Easy York Community Council

The Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG) represents residents in the area between Avenue Road to the west and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and the Vale of Avoca to the east, and the Beltline to the north and Woodlawn Avenue West and the properties on Jackes Avenue to the south.

The DPRG is a member of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition, which was formed to address safety concerns on Avenue Road south of St. Clair, our western boundary. Our members regularly drive on this road and use its sidewalks. Our children use these sidewalks to walk to school.

But the section south of St. Clair is dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles. The past road widening from 4 lanes north of St. Clair to 6 lanes to the south combined the 50 not 40 km speed limit makes for a dangerous speedway, particularly on hill. The road widening resulted in significantly narrowed the sidewalks, making them dangerous to use, particularly with speeding cars so close. These very narrow sidewalks even have telephone poles located within them.

We support the creation of a safe, healthy, climate-friendly Avenue Road, beginning with an immediate reduction of the dangerous speeds and moving forward on investigating options for widening the substandard sidewalks to protect vulnerable road users and fulfill the City's Vision Zero policies

We therefore strongly urge your Committee to adopt the motions of Councillors Matlow and Saxe:

- to reduce and enforce a 40km speed limit. It is presently the only section of Avenue Road at 50km.



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- to install temporary physical barriers in the curb lane in front of the Church of the Messiah at 240 Avenue Road, to protect pedestrians from speeding vehicles along the narrow sidewalks, while lining for the food bank.
- to consult the public and report on recommendations about implementing a road safety pilot in early 2024. The pilot could include a combination of measures to widen the perilously narrow sidewalks. Examples of these measures could include sidewalk extensions, speed management, signage, physical barriers, on-street parking and/or dedicated delivery zones.

Yours sincerely,

Cathie Macdonald
President, Deer Park Residents Group

CC Councillor Matlow
Barbara Gray, General Manager at City of Toronto Transportation Services