



June 25, 2024

To: Toronto City Council

From: Walk Toronto

Subject: TE14.38 - Avenue Road Study - Interim Update and Proposed Site-Specific Road Safety Improvements

Dear Mayor Chow and councillors,

In light of the supplementary report from City staff about the Avenue Road safety proposals, I am writing to reiterate Walk Toronto's support for staff proposals #2-8 for Avenue Road between Davenport and Dupont.

These proposals will make a significant difference in making Avenue Road much safer, by reducing speeding and providing a buffer for pedestrians on the extremely narrow sidewalks, which do not meet even the most basic accessibility standards for sidewalk width.

In terms of the impact on drivers, it is important to point out:

- 1) Avenue Road is only four lanes north of St. Clair Avenue, and its extension south at Queen's Park Circle is now also only 4 lanes. The additional lanes on the 2 km of Avenue Road between Bloor and St. Clair are pointless and residual – they have no significant impact on traffic movement.
- 2) Avenue Road is already narrowed in one direction or another at multiple points due to construction. Additional construction can be expected over the next ten years or more as new projects are built. Making Avenue Road consistently 4 lanes (with turning lanes where needed) simply makes the road more consistent and reduces dangerous unexpected lane changes

Walk Toronto has no problem with removing staff recommendation #1 (a median at Avenue Road and Dupont), since that measure is primarily for motor vehicle traffic and has limited pedestrian impact.

It is vital that, after 7 years of discussion, Toronto move forward with starting the process of making Avenue Road a normal main street that is safe for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid, on behalf of Walk Toronto