



# Avenue Road Safety Coalition

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

Toronto City Council  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H2N2

June 24, 2024

## **Re: Item TE14.38 Supplementary Report: Avenue Road Study - Interim Update and Proposed Site-Specific Road Safety Improvements**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) was formed seven years ago and now includes 32 local and city-wide organizations. (see attachment). Its main goal is to improve the safety of the 2.1 km section of Avenue Road between Bloor St. W. and St. Clair Ave. W. for all road users, especially pedestrians.

The City's Avenue Road study has been ongoing since 2017. In the fall of 2023, City Transportation Services identified the following unsafe conditions: inadequate infrastructure for vulnerable road users, failure to meet minimum provincial requirements and City safety guidelines, and encouragement of speeding. They presented options for public discussion to address the need for changes. After this comprehensive seven-year study and consultation, we are pleased to see the long-awaited staff report recommending Phase 1 of much-needed site-specific safety improvements for the Ward 11 segment between Davenport Road and Dupont Street (280 metres). The proposed elements are critical for pedestrian safety.

**We are writing to respectfully ask you to review the information below and to vote to approve recommendations #3 to #8 inclusive from the Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services, June 19, 2024, Supplementary report.**

This first phase of implementation will address the most dangerous and intimidating stretches of sidewalk in the old City of Toronto and is a significant step forward. The sidewalks with pedestrian clearway widths (unobstructed space) ranging from 0.9 to 1.5 metres do not meet the minimum provincial requirements specified in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) or City guidelines and **are unsafe**.

The City Transportation staff proposed complete street elements on Avenue Road between Davenport Road and Dupont Street, prioritizing the use of the two curb lanes for road-level pedestrian space to create a wider space for pedestrians, including those using wheelchairs and strollers. The use of the curb lanes will also provide buffer space between active motor vehicle travel lanes and narrow sidewalks to help improve the unsafe conditions until a complete reconstruction is possible. A signalized crosswalk at the busy entrance to Ramsden Park is also proposed to allow for safe pedestrian crossings.

We do not support recommendations #1 and #2 for a median at Roxborough Avenue. The idea of blocking traffic from Roxborough Avenue from entering Dupont St. at this intersection has caused considerable opposition from local residents and their city councillor.

However, we do believe that the other improvements to Avenue Road, if approved, will also improve the conditions at this intersection. We also support installing a raised crosswalk on the east leg of the intersection of Roxborough Street West and Avenue Road to improve the safety of north and south pedestrian crossing movements across Roxborough Street West.

**In conclusion we ask that City Council approve recommendations #3 to #8 inclusive from the Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services, June 19, 2024, Supplementary Report, and delete recommendations #1 and # 2.**

The ARSC will continue to work with City Staff, Councillor Saxe, Councillor Matlow and the local residents to refine these improvements and monitor the ongoing work in Ward 11 during the detailed design phase outlined on pages 10 and 11 of the staff supplementary report.

Thank you for your close attention to addressing the serious pedestrian safety concerns identified in the City's Avenue Road Study and to help the City achieve its Vision Zero and TransformTO policies.

Sincerely,

MH Spence and Arlene Dejardins  
The Avenue Road Safety Coalition

Attachment: Avenue Road Safety Coalition Members

*Let's make Avenue Road from Bloor Street to St. Clair a more people-friendly, climate-friendly, and inclusive transportation corridor that is safe for everyone!*

## **Avenue Road Safety Coalition**

880 Cities

ABC Residents Association

Amica Senior Lifestyles

Annex Residents' Association

Avenue Road Food Bank, Church of the Messiah

Bay CloverHill Community Association

Bells on Bloor

Brentwood Towers Tenants Association

Brown Junior Public School and Parent Council

Church of the Redeemer

Clark Faber Fiksel LLP - Avenue Road

ClimateFast

Cottingham Junior Public School and Parent Council

Cycle Toronto Midtown

De La Salle College "Oaklands"

Deer Park Residents Group

Friends and Families for Safe Streets

Harbord Village Residents' Association

Hazelton Place Retirement Residence

ISKCON Toronto - Hare Krishna Temple

Lytton Park Residents' Organization

No More Noise Toronto

Pears on the Avenue Condo Residents

Rathnelly Area Residents' Association

Sierra Developments 110 Avenue Road

St. Clare's Multi Faith Housing Society

TCHC Residents - 250 Davenport

TENBLOCK - Housing Developer

The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)

Clean Air Partnership Toronto

Community Bikeways Coalition

The David Suzuki Foundation

Walk Toronto



