



# Avenue Road Safety Coalition

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

November 11, 2024

## Comments for 2024.MM23.14 on November 13, 2024 City Council

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of the Toronto City Council,

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition ( ARSC ), encourages the City Council to approve the motion brought forward by Councillor Dianne Saxe and Councillor Amber Morley regarding Bill 212 and the proposed section 195.2 of the Highway Traffic Act.

Transportation policies that affect our city should be determined by those who are elected and accountable to the people they affect. The Ford Government's proposed changes to Section 195.2 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act disregard democratic processes and the interests of the majority of residents and taxpayers.

- Removing costly infrastructure built after public consultation would waste taxpayer money. Instead of benefiting a few car drivers, those funds could be directed more responsibly for example, to improve hospital wait times or provide shelters for those living on Toronto's streets
- Cycle infrastructure has gained support not only from safety advocates but also from numerous private developers. Most developers reference the City's Complete Streets policies and emphasize the significance of cycling infrastructure in their *Transportation Demand Management* (TDM) plans as a rationale for increased housing density in downtown Toronto.
- Requiring municipalities to seek approval before implementing new bike lanes is an unacceptable infringement on local autonomy. Municipal governments, with their direct connection to residents and understanding of community needs, are uniquely positioned to make decisions that balance traffic flow, active transportation, environmental protection, and public safety. The proposed Provincial legislation disrespects this knowledge as well as the expertise of City Planners and Transportation Engineers and the essential and valid role of local community input in shaping their Cities.

The ARSC asks the City Council to unanimously approve this motion and to protest against the proposed Section 195.2 of the Highway Traffic Act. This is not merely a policy issue; it strikes at the core of our local governance. It is imperative that the province recognizes and respects municipalities' jurisdiction and trusts their capability to manage infrastructure that best serves their residents.

Sincerely,

MH Spence and Arlene Dejardins for

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition