

May 26, 2024

To: The Infrastructure and Environment Committee and Mayor Olivia Chow

**Re: Infrastructure and Environmental Committee Meeting 14 - IE 14.4 Cycling Network Plan - 2024 Cycling Infrastructure and Missing Sidewalk Installation - Third Quarter Update**

Dear Mayor Chow and the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Brentwood Towers Tenants' Association represents people living at 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25 Lascelles Boulevard, near Davisville Station (almost 1,000 units). Our tenant members love the walkable neighborhood of Midtown and frequent Avenue Road to access the city. **We are writing to express the BTTA's support for a City Council decision to make Avenue Road safer for vulnerable sidewalk and road users.**

The current conditions along Avenue Road are unsafe for pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists, as seen by the tragic death of Ali Sezgin Armagan at Avenue Road and Elgin Street. Members of our community attended a ghost bike memorial for Sezgin, and were saddened to see that after many years of advocacy, Avenue Road is still a place that is hostile to vulnerable road users. We support staff's recommendation to implement the changes between Bloor and Davenport, but ask this committee to consider the narrow sidewalks north of Davenport as well.

In consultation with the Avenue Road Safely Coalition, we urge the IEC Committee to direct staff to include the following actions in the upcoming report to TEYCC:

1. Reduce vehicle lanes between Davenport and the CP tracks from 6 to 4 and provide turning lanes at Davenport and Dupont.
2. **Prioritize the use of the two curb lanes to create a broader and safer buffered space** for pedestrians, including those using wheelchairs and strollers, rather than using all of this space for long-term parking.
3. Maintain some loading zones and short-term parking spaces to serve local businesses.
4. **Implement curb extensions and radii reductions** where needed to improve pedestrian safety.
5. Install a new mid-block crosswalk between Davenport and Dupont at the entrance to Ramsden Park to provide a safe crossing in this busy area.

These measures also align with the City's Vision Zero and TransformTO goals. The proposed actions are crucial for ensuring the safety and comfort of all in our community, especially those with mobility challenges.

Yours Truly,

Christine Skobe / President of the Brentwood Towers Tenants' Association