



May 26, 2024

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Matthew Green

Re: IE 14.4 Cycling Network Plan - 2024 Cycling Infrastructure and Missing Sidewalk Installation - Third Quarter

Dear Chair Jennifer McKelvie and Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) (which includes FoNTRA members, ABCRA and Deer Park Residents Group) has worked for seven years to address dangerous conditions along Avenue Road between Bloor St. and St. Clair Avenue West.

FoNTRA strongly supports the request of the ARSC that pedestrian-focused safety improvements for the section of Avenue Road between Davenport Road and Dupont Street be added to the Avenue Road Study interim staff update report and presented for consideration at Toronto and East York Community Council on June 11, 2024, for implementation in 2024 and 2025. We understand that the proposals for Avenue Road in Ward 12 north of the tracks will be considered later this year (2024).

We are pleased that work has finally begun to address some of safety concerns on Avenue Road with the construction of bike lanes from Bloor St. to Davenport Road, as recommended in IE14.3 Cycling Network Update (2025-2027). However, we were disheartened and alarmed to find that the IE14.4 - Avenue Road Report does not include meaningful pedestrian sidewalk safety improvements north of Davenport Road in Ward 11. We expect that proposals for improving the narrow sidewalks in Ward 12 will be made later this year.

The ARSC has “been advised that the City intends to retain the majority of existing parking in this area. While on-street parking can provide physical protection for

pedestrians from fast-moving vehicles. While this may help with speed reduction when cars are actually parked, it does nothing to address the dangerously narrow sidewalks, some less than one metre wide, and will not solve the issues highlighted in the City's Avenue Road Study, which confirmed that the current road design does not provide adequate infrastructure for the vulnerable road users; does not meet minimum provincial requirements specified in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and City of Toronto guidelines; and encourages speeding.”

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services Division
Jacquelyn Hayward Director, Planning, Design & Management, Transportation Services
ABCRA
Deer Park Residents Group

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.