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May 27, 2024

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Floor 10, West Tower  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

[iec@toronto.ca](mailto:iec@toronto.ca)

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

*Re: IE14.4 - Cycling Network Plan update*

The Annex Residents' Association (ARA) strongly supports the proposed changes to Avenue Road.

The ARA is the oldest residents' association in the City. Our catchment is from Avenue Road in the east to Bathurst Street in the West and from Bloor Street West in the south to the CPR tracks along Dupont Street to the north. We are actively involved in initiatives to make the Annex and all of Toronto safe, welcoming and inclusive.

We have long been supporters of the efforts of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition to transform Avenue Road between Bloor Street and St. Clair Avenue into a safer space for pedestrians. This part of Avenue Road is a "traffic sewer", one of the most dangerous and intimidating stretches of public realm in the old City of Toronto. It consists of narrow sidewalks that are not wide enough to meet basic accessibility standards, with fast-moving vehicle traffic immediately beside them.

The plans to reduce Avenue Road to four lanes, with an additional turning lane in some places, will greatly improve the pedestrian experience on Avenue Road. In addition to the many current residents who rely on these sidewalks, many construction projects in this corridor are bringing new residents to the area, and they will need safe sidewalks to get to local amenities and destinations. We therefore support the plan to reduce vehicle lanes between Bloor and Davenport to four lanes by adding cycling lanes and pedestrian improvements.

We also emphasize the need to make pedestrian improvements north of Davenport to Dupont by reducing Avenue Road to four lanes (plus turning lanes) and use the two existing curb lanes as a safety buffer zone for pedestrians from the fast moving traffic. We ask that this work be done at the same time as the implementation of improvements south of Davenport. There should be no need to delay the pedestrian improvements north of Davenport for further consultations about vehicle parking as there has already been a great deal of consultation, and there are plenty of parking spaces in the area.

The Ward 11 improvements from Bloor to Dupont form a cohesive unit and should be implemented together, and done as quickly as possible.

We also hope that the plans for Ward 12 pedestrian safety improvements and lane reductions from Dupont to St. Clair will be finalized as soon as possible.

We look forward to the approval of these plans by the Committee and by City Council, and the rapid transformation of this part of Avenue Road into a safer and more attractive main street. A place where all residents and visitors will feel welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rita Bilerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rita Bilerman  
Chair, Annex Residents' Association