



May 27, 2024

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W  
Toronto, M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

As currently configured, Avenue Road operates like a busy highway.

But there is no place for a dangerous, high-speed road in the midst of a densely populated residential neighbourhood.

I am therefore writing to say that the David Suzuki Foundation fully supports the new cycling infrastructure between Bloor St. and Davenport Rd, which aims to improve cyclist safety and promote more opportunities for active, eco-friendly transportation.

However, we have concerns about the lack of attention to serious pedestrian safety issues highlighted in the City's Avenue Road Study findings.

The study confirmed that the narrow sidewalks do not meet the minimum provincial requirements specified in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the City's guidelines. The changes to the Ward 11, Bloor to Dupont section of Avenue Road should be implemented as a cohesive unit as quickly as possible.

To address the serious pedestrian safety concerns identified in the City's study and help the City achieve its Vision Zero and TransformTO policies, we propose the following changes:

1. Reduce vehicle lanes between Davenport and Dupont from 6 to 4 and provide turning lanes at Davenport and Dupont.
2. Prioritize the two curb lanes to create a wider and safer buffered space for pedestrians, including those using wheelchairs and strollers, instead of 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 safe signalized mid-block crosswalk between Davenport and Dupont at the entrance to Ramsden Park to provide a safe crossing in this busy area.

The David Suzuki Foundation requests that pedestrian-focused safety improvements for the section of Avenue Road between Davenport and Dupont 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 2024/2025.

Thank you for your attention in this urgent matter.

Yours,

Gideon Forman

Climate Change and Transportation Policy Analyst

The David Suzuki Foundation