



May 27, 2024

Attention: City of Toronto - Infrastructure and Environmental Committee

Dear Chair McKelvie and Members of the Committee,

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

For the past six years, Amica Senior Lifestyles has been working closely with the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) and the Councillors of Wards 11 and 12, to help improve the safety of Avenue Road for all users. I am writing today to first express our support of the new cycling infrastructure between Bloor Street and Davenport Road, which will improve the safety of cyclists on Avenue Road. However, like the ARSC, Amica is highly concerned that the serious pedestrian safety concerns, as identified in the city's Avenue Road Study findings, are not being sufficiently addressed in a timely manner. We understand that the current road designs:

- do not provide adequate infrastructure for vulnerable road users, such as seniors and children;
- do not meet minimum provincial requirements specified in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the City's guidelines;
- and continue to encourage speeding.

The safety of pedestrians using Avenue Road is as urgent a priority, as that of cyclists. Vulnerable pedestrian populations, including seniors, children and those using wheelchairs and pushing strollers, require safe passage along Avenue Road. The protection of their wellbeing and lives cannot be further delayed.

We, therefore, appeal to the IEC Committee to prioritize pedestrian safety on the dangerously narrow sidewalks on Avenue Road (north of Davenport Road) and to implement the following measures post haste to prevent further injuries and fatalities:

- Reduce vehicle lanes between Davenport and Dupont from six to four and provide turning lanes at Davenport and Dupont.
- Prioritize the two curb lanes to create an accessible, wider, and safer buffered space for pedestrians, including for those using wheelchairs and strollers.
- Maintain some loading zones and short-term parking spaces to serve local businesses.
- Build curb extensions and radii reductions, where appropriate.

AMICA

SENIOR LIFESTYLES

- Install a new safe-signalized, crosswalk midblock between Davenport and Dupont at the entrance to Ramsden Park.

These recommendations will help the city achieve its **Vision Zero** and **TransformTO** policies.

As Midtown populations rapidly age and density increases along Avenue Road, pedestrian safety will grow increasingly precarious. Please receive our appeal and implement the measures to protect vulnerable pedestrians.

Sincerely,



Derek Coss,

Chief Development Officer

Cc: Councillor Josh Matlow
Councillor Diane Saxe
Avenue Road Safety Coalition
Doug MacLatchy, Chief Executive Officer, Amica Senior Lifestyles