



October 21, 2024

Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie, Chair and Members
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street W
Toronto, ON M5G 1P5

Submitted by email to IEC@toronto.ca

Dear Councillor McKelvie and members of the IEC,

Re: IE17.4 - Parkside Drive Study Final Report

We are excited to see the proposed changes to Parkside Drive, a roadway that we inherited from a bygone era when moving cars was a top priority of city planners. Indeed, we are happy to live in a city that now ranks climate action, vibrant communities, and safe roads as top priorities. The TransformTO Net Zero, Cycling Network, and Vision Zero Road Safety plans are valuable initiatives that improve the quality of our lives.

Today in the City of Toronto battles that pit the safety and health of our neighbourhoods against moving cars are being won more often than lost. We have come a long way from the days of Metro Chair Fred Gardiner.

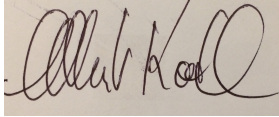
Unfortunately, the pace of action today in advancing city plans and policies still falls significantly short of the urgency of the problems that we face, including the danger on our roads.

We have reviewed the letter by Safe Parkside, and fully agree with its position, namely to call for Phase 1 to be completed in 2025, consistent with the urgent need for a re-designed street. The urgency of action is concisely captured by the Safe Parkside letter:

Parkside Drive is a fast, dangerous and deadly city-designated Community Safety Zone that doesn't meet any of the city's minimum safety requirements for an arterial road. Excessive vehicle speeds, reckless/careless driving and distracted driving remain serious safety concerns, especially considering the high number of families, children, schools, daycares, seniors, cyclists, residents, visitors and all the other vulnerable road users who are forced to endure Parkside Drive in order to access High Park.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Albert Koehl".

Albert Koehl, Coordinator
Community Bikeways

Community Bikeways (est. May 2020) is a grassroots organization dedicated to holding City Hall to account for implementing its cycling network, Vision Zero Road Safety, and TransformTO climate plans. We also strive to amplify community voices, offer policy solutions, and host community events that highlight the joy, affordability, and convenience of cycling.