

From: [Robin Richardson](#)
To: [Toronto East York Community Council](#)
Cc: info@avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca; [Yonge4All Admin](#); [Councillor Saxe](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Prioritize Pedestrian Safety on Avenue Road
Date: June 7, 2024 11:48:17 AM
Attachments: [Yonge4All Submission TEYCC Item 2024.TE14.38, Avenue Road Study - Interim Update and Proposed Site-Specific Road Safety Improvements.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add our comments in the attached document to the agenda for the June 11, 2024 Toronto and East York Community Council meeting on item 2024.TE14.38, Avenue Road Study - Interim Update and Proposed Site-Specific Road Safety Improvements

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Chair Moise and Members of the TEYCC,

We fully support the City Council's efforts to improve safety on the dangerous 6-lane section of Avenue Road between Bloor and St. Clair. The plan to reduce Avenue Road from Davenport to Dupont to four lanes is crucial and will significantly enhance road safety for everyone. The proposed signalized pedestrian crossing at Ramsden Park is also an essential safety measure that should be funded and installed as soon as possible.

However, the City has declared that the sidewalks do not meet the minimum safety standards and fail to accommodate people with disabilities. These must be made safe.

The staff proposes extending curbside parking to 24/7 as a traffic barrier but this won't make less than a meter wide sidewalks safe, nor will it make them accessible for people using mobility devices. The City plans to keep all 34 parking spots in the area, but data shows they are underutilized, with plenty of parking available within a 5-minute walk.

The City can make do with fewer parking spots and should use that space to make sidewalks safer and more accessible.

We urge you to consider reducing some TPA pay-and-display parking spaces to create more pedestrian space and improve the overall safety and accessibility of this 280-meter section of Avenue Road.

Please prioritize pedestrian safety, especially for people with disabilities, over parking.

- Repurposing curb lanes, freed up by reduced parking, to create a wider, safer pedestrian space using jersey barriers, similar to CafeTO, is a cost-effective solution.
- Additionally, creating dedicated loading and short-term parking spaces to support local businesses can be part of this plan.

These are simple, cost-effective actions that can be implemented without major construction. They will significantly improve the accessibility and safety of the sidewalks and help the City achieve its Vision Zero and TransformTO policies.

In addition, we also request that the Avenue Road Study report for the near-term plan for the segment of Avenue Road between Dupont Street and St. Clair Avenue West be presented promptly to ensure cohesive pedestrian safety measures along the entire road.

Sincerely,

Name: Robin Richardson, Spokesperson for Yonge4All
Postal Code: M4T



Yonge4All is a diverse group of residents who live, work and shop in midtown Toronto. We believe that Yonge Street should be welcoming, safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, whether they walk, take transit, drive a car, ride a bike or use another mobility device.

June 7, 2024

RE: Item 2024.TE14.38, Avenue Road Study - Interim Update and Proposed Site-Specific Road Safety Improvements

To Councillor Moise, Chair, Councillor Saxe, and members of TEYCC:

Yonge4All shares the concerns of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition that improvements to address long-standing and urgent issues regarding pedestrian safety are not being prioritized.

Specifically, inadequate sidewalk space from Davenport Road to the railway tracks north of Dupont must be addressed and improvements expedited. Too many injuries and fatalities have occurred in this area and we need preventative measures now to ensure that there are no more tragedies due to unsafe and dangerous conditions.

Yonge4All joins with Avenue Road Safety Coalition in asking that:

- Vehicle lanes between Davenport and Dupont are reduced from six to four, incorporating turning lanes at Davenport and Dupont.
- The two curb lines are used to create a wider and safer buffered space for pedestrians, including those using wheelchairs and strollers.
- Maintain some loading zones and short-term parking spaces, available 24/7, to serve local businesses. However, on-street parking cannot be at the expense of measures to improve pedestrian safety.

- Incorporate curb extensions and radii reductions (where needed) to slow turning vehicles and shorten crossing distances to improve pedestrian safety
- Install a safe, signalized midblock crossing between Davenport and Dupont at the entrance to Ramsden Park to provide a safe crossing in this busy area.

We urge you to prioritize these measures along with the other complete street improvements from Bloor Street to Davenport Road that staff have recommended and expedite their implementation. The safety of pedestrians using Avenue Road, including those using wheelchairs and pushing strollers, is urgent and vital and needs to be prioritized along with the safety of all road users.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robin Richardson

Spokesperson for Yonge4All

www.yonge4all.ca

Cc: Councillor Dianne Saxe

Avenue Road Safety Coalition