



# St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society

877 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2H2

Phone: 416-628-0224 Email: [877yonge@stclares.ca](mailto:877yonge@stclares.ca)

Charitable Registration Number: 87305-8192 RR0001

June 7, 2024

To: Toronto and East York Community Council and Councillor Chris Moise, Chair.

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 11, 2024 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on [Item - 2024.TE14.38](#).

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:

St. Clare's is pleased to see that some of the key pedestrian improvements we have been advocating for with ARSC over the past seven years are being recommended.

- The number of lanes will be reduced from 6 to 4 (plus a turning lane in some places), decreasing traffic speed. What is more, the City is committing funding to implement these plans – an important milestone.
- A much-needed safe crosswalk at Ramsden Park will be implemented, although funding for this is not yet secured.
- Vehicle safety improvements to the Dupont intersection are also proposed.

St. Clare's is in support for the overall plan, which will finally begin the long-awaited transformation of Avenue Road into a safer street. St. Clare's supports the areas increase in housing density. However, the people currently living on the west side of Avenue Road and all the new people who will move into the area need a safe way to travel as pedestrians on Avenue Road. This will allow safe access to Ramsden Park, which has all the facilities for the area, including dog areas and allow low income people in the area to get to the food bank and other needed resources safely in mobility devices and with "bundle buggies".

St. Clare's and the ARSC are disappointed that sidewalks will, for the most part, remain dangerously narrow. These sidewalks:

- Have been declared below minimum city safety standards or regulations to accommodate people with disabilities.
- Were the primary issue initiating the Avenue Road Study.



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### **Ensuring pedestrian safety is more important than saving some parking spots.**

While a few painted buffer zones and small parts of the road are blocked off as "pedestrian areas," the primary safety improvement proposed in the Staff Report is simply to extend curbside parking hours 24/7. This is not a sufficient solution to make these less-than-meter-wide sidewalks safe and accessible. The City's proposal retains all 34 of the current Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) spots in this 280-meter segment. However, the City's parking data shows that these spots are under-utilized. There is also ample parking within a 5-minute walk of the area. Reducing parking and blocking off more safe areas for pedestrians also align with the City's Vision Zero and TransformTO goals.

The City can make do with fewer parking spots and should use that space to make sidewalks safer and more accessible. The best part is that no major construction is needed. Our revised proposal better serves community safety and the City's stated priorities. We would like the City to:

- Repurpose curb lanes (freed up by reduced parking) to create a wider, safer pedestrian space using jersey barriers (similar to CafeTO).
- Create dedicated loading and short-term parking spaces to support local businesses.
- Add pedestrian protection from Roxborough to Dupont on the east side. The proposed intersection reconfiguration may limit future opportunities to address this narrow sidewalk.
- Secure funding for a necessary pedestrian crossing to Ramsden Park.

The City has also received expressions of concern about its proposals to improve vehicle safety at the Dupont intersection. These concerns need to be considered

Thank you for considering the City of Toronto's cycling infrastructure. I am confident that the committee will also prioritize pedestrians' well-being in this decision-making process. The proposed actions are crucial for ensuring the safety and comfort of all pedestrians, especially those with mobility challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Hinton".

Name: Kim Hinton, Director, Community and Partnership

Postal code: M5R 3K6

Organization: St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society