



June 10th, 2024

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of Toronto East York Community Council,

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

The ABC Residents Association (“ABCRA”) is an incorporated volunteer body that has been serving the community since 1957. ABCRA represents the interests of residents in the area bounded by Yonge Street, Avenue Road, Bloor Street, and the CPR tracks.

ABCRA is also a member in good standing of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC). We commend Councillor Saxe and City Council members for recognizing the need for site-specific road safety improvements along the 2.1 km stretch of Avenue Road. ARSC fully supports the recommendation to reduce Avenue Road from Davenport to Dupont to four lanes.

We are writing to express our support for many of the recommendations in the interim update for the Avenue Road Study regarding pedestrian safety. We also encourage the committee to take a more ambitious approach to pedestrian safety, especially between Dupont Street and Davenport Road.

We understand that residents and commuters who rely on Avenue Road have differing opinions about the impact of these safety measures on traffic. While we are sympathetic to concerns about potential inconveniences, we firmly believe that collision data and safety considerations must take precedence.

ABCRA supports the installation of a physical median between the northbound shared through and left-turn lane and the northbound center through lane on Avenue Road, from Roxborough Street West to Dupont Street. This median will not only enhance

safety but also has the potential to significantly reduce East-West traffic on Roxborough Street West, a goal residents have been advocating for over a decade.

We also support the installation of an Intersection Pedestrian Signal between Pears Avenue and Roxborough Street West. The committee should prioritize funding and installing this signal immediately, as the need for it is clear and pressing.

Opportunities for Improvement:

In partnership with the Annex Residents Association and the Avenue Road Safety Coalition, ABCRA offers a simple, cost-effective alternative plan that prioritizes people and accessibility over parking. Our plan balances parking availability with significantly improving accessibility and safety for the hundreds of pedestrians using these sidewalks daily, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

We urge the committee to review the alternative plan prepared by The Planning Partnership, which aims to balance local business needs with safe and accessible pedestrian spaces. The current staff recommendations do not adequately address the dangerously narrow sidewalks that fail to meet minimum city safety guidelines or basic accessibility standards. Relying heavily on TPA-paid parking to provide a buffer for pedestrians does not sufficiently address the existing narrow and unsafe pedestrian spaces. There is no proposal to increase pedestrian space, leaving it inadequate for wheelchair users and those with baby strollers.

Therefore, we request the committee to **amend Recommendation #5 to direct staff to refine the designs in Appendix 3. This should include the reduction of 12 Pay-and-Display Parking spots to widen pedestrian spaces for safety and accessibility. Consultation should involve the Ward 11 Councillor, Avenue Road Safety Coalition, and The Planning Partnership.**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

The ABC Residents Association,
Ian Carmichael and John Caliendo,
Co-Chairs
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