



June 10, 2025

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: Walk Toronto

Re: IE22.4 - Updates on Vision Zero Road Safety Initiatives: Improving Crossings for Pedestrians

Dear Committee members,

Regarding the “Pedestrian Crossing Protection Device Justification Policy,” Walk Toronto is relieved that staff are finally incorporating both recent cases of deaths and serious injuries, and the distance from other safe crossing points, into the potential justifications for installing safe crossings for pedestrians at specific locations.

For too long, a rigid set of criteria, which demanded heavy existing pedestrian traffic at locations with no safe crossing before any safety measures were considered, limited safe crossing infrastructure – even in locations where there were obvious destinations that triggered a need to cross the street, where recent deaths or serious injuries had revealed the danger, and/or where there was no safe crossing option within a reasonable distance.

Walk Toronto has been advocating for many years for the distance to other safe crossings to be an important factor when deciding whether to implement safe crossing infrastructure, whether that be PXOs or traffic lights. It should also be obvious that if a pedestrian has been killed or seriously injured at a crossing point to an obvious destination, then additional safety measures should be implemented.

However, we urge City staff and councillors to implement safety measures BEFORE anyone is killed or seriously injured at a dangerous location. Local residents are often well aware of danger zones, but the strict limits that remain in force in these documents risk preventing the implementation of such measures until someone’s life is ended or forever changed for the worse after being hit by a vehicle.

While these new measures introduce some welcome flexibility into the staff standards, they remain reliant on non-transparent staff judgements. We urge both City staff and councillors to prioritize pedestrian lives when making judgements about the installation of safe crossing measures, and not be constrained by arbitrary statistics.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid

On behalf of Walk Toronto