July 22, 2025
Toronto City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Support for MM32.18 - Authorization to Release Sections 37 Funds for Pedestrian Safety on Avenue Road

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC) comprises <u>33 citywide organizations</u> representing a diverse range of stakeholders. Our members include safety, transportation, and environmental advocates, private businesses, NGOs, city builders, faith groups, teacher and parent groups, children, seniors, pedestrians, and drivers. We share a common goal: to transform the 2.1-kilometre stretch of Avenue Road, between Bloor Street and St. Clair Avenue to a four-lane boulevard that safely and harmoniously accommodates all users.

We are pleased to express our strong support for Members Motion MM32.18, brought forward by Councillor Diane Saxe, and seconded by Councillor Moise which directs the allocation of \$200,000 in Section 37 funds for the installation of a mid-block pedestrian signal near 215 Avenue Road. This signal was previously authorized by City Council under Item 2024.TE14.38 and is now ready for construction. Its installation responds to longstanding community concerns and takes a necessary step toward making Avenue Road safer and more accessible for pedestrians.

The west side of Avenue Road has experienced substantial residential intensification in recent years, yet the road's design has not kept pace with the changing needs of it's new residents. The combination of speeding vehicles, constrained pedestrian space, and limited crossing opportunities makes this corridor challenging for pedestrians accessing Ramsden Park, nearby neighbourhoods, local businesses and transit.

This motion addresses a pressing local safety concern while aligning with the City's broader goals of equitable mobility and Complete Streets. We are especially pleased to see Section 37 funds being directed toward meaningful improvements within the very community where the development occurred - building needed infrastructure to accommodate growth.

We urge City Council to support this important motion and take a meaningful step toward improving safety along Avenue Road. We also extend our sincere thanks to Councillor Saxe for her continued efforts to support the work of the ARSC and Transportation staff for their work and commitment to safety. As we continue to work towards enhancing safety on Avenue Road, support from Councillor Saxe, Councillor Matlow and Transportation Services staff is essential.

Sincerely.

MH Spence and Arlene Dejardins for

The Avenue Road Safety Coalition.