



January 19, 2026

Budget Committee  
c/o Matthew Green  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Budget Committee,

On behalf of ABCRA and the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC), we are writing to express our support for the Open Streets Toronto submission calling on Toronto City Council to reinstate open streets programs such as OpenStreetsTO and ActiveTO in 2026.

We strongly support the return of these programs, which temporarily close streets to motor vehicles to create safe and welcoming space for walking, cycling, and physical activity, consistent with successful open streets models used in cities around the world. We also note the demonstrated success of OpenStreetsTO along key corridors including parts of Bloor and Yonge Streets, where attendance reached approximately 100,000 in 2019 - reflecting strong public demand for accessible, car-free public realm experiences in Toronto's core.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the City's continued leadership in supporting safe, healthy, and accessible public spaces.

Sincerely,

Mary Helen Spence  
The ABC Residents' Association  
[www.abcra.ca](http://www.abcra.ca)

Arlene Desjardins  
Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC)  
[www.avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca](http://www.avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca)

cc: Robert Zaichkowski, Open Streets Toronto - Robert.zaichkowski@yahoo.ca  
cc: Amanda O'Rourke, 8 80 Cities - info@880cities.org