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Dear Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

RE: IE30.2- Updates on Vision Zero Road Safety Initiatives

In May of 2024, a mother and daughter were seriously injured in a near-fatal collision at the pedestrian crossover at Acacia Road and Davisville Avenue. In the aftermath of that incident, I worked with City staff to launch the Improving Davisville project with the goal of ensuring such an incident never occurs on Davisville again. This project also presents us an opportunity to move on some much-needed aesthetic improvements to the public realm.

The Phase 1 recommendations included in this report represent a meaningful and welcome step forward. Many of the improvements—including raised medians at the pedestrian crossings, curb extensions at Pailton Crescent and Acacia Rd, and traffic calming features at Mount Pleasant—have been requested by local residents for years. I'm pleased to see these long-awaited measures move forward.

However, our work to improve traffic safety along Davisville will not be complete without addressing the street's discontinuous curb lanes.

Along Davisville Avenue, you will find schools, parks, retirement and long-term care residences and our new Aquatic Centre. The street is characterized by frequently interrupted curb lanes which are occupied by off-peak parking, Bike Share stations, and curb extensions. Where these lanes are clear, cars dangerously weave around left-turning traffic, and speed through pedestrian crossings. Dangerous driving in this curb lane has contributed to many of the serious collisions that have occurred along the corridor in recent years.

Until the discontinuous curb lanes on Davisville are addressed, our project to deliver meaningful and lasting safety improvements along Davisville will remain unfinished.

Accordingly, I intend to move a motion at City Council requesting that staff report back in the first quarter of 2027 with Phase 2 recommendations addressing these lanes to ensure that both Phase 1 and 2 move forward as a package. I also intend to ask staff to report on the feasibility of an accelerated resurfacing timeline along Davisville to address the worsening road conditions along the street,

We cannot allow the safety improvements that students, families, and seniors so urgently need to be delayed by divisive and polarizing debates over how road space is allocated.

Our focus must remain on enhancing safety and creating a more beautiful, functional and safe Davisville Avenue for all road users, which includes a protected path for cyclists.

Sincerely,



Councillor Josh Matlow