



January 8, 2026.

Toronto East York Community Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Councillors,

Re: TE28.46 – Cumberland Street – Parking and Traffic Amendments

GYRA (Greater Yorkville Residents' Association), representing the interests of well over 10,000 residents living in our 54 multi-residential member buildings within the Yorkville area, wishes to formally express our strong support for this item. The same changes contained in this item were already approved by Community Council in 2022 at our request, but mistakenly not implemented.

Cumberland Street currently experiences persistent congestion, with vehicular queues frequently extending from Bellair Street to Avenue Road. These conditions result in inefficient traffic operations, excessive delays for vehicles accessing and exiting adjacent residential and commercial properties—often in the range of 10 to 20 minutes and constrained turning movements at Avenue Rd., which in turn exacerbates congestion on Avenue Road itself. The resulting stop-and-go conditions and prolonged idling generate avoidable greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollutants, directly undermining City objectives related to climate change mitigation and public health.

Our Yorkville core neighbourhood currently incorporates several partial two-way street configurations, including Bellair Street (Cumberland Street to Bloor Street), Yorkville Avenue (Bay Street to Bellair Street), Scollard Street (mid-block to Bay Street), and Hazelton Avenue (Scollard Street to Yorkville Avenue). These measures have been implemented over the years to reduce congestion, to provide drivers with reasonable exit options from an exceptionally dense area, and to reduce emissions from idling vehicles.

The proposed Cumberland Street amendment aligns with Complete Streets principles by improving network connectivity, distributing traffic more evenly, and supporting safer, more predictable movements for all road users. By reducing congestion, eliminating unnecessary queuing, and improving intersection operations, the proposal also advances Vision Zero objectives by reducing conflict points and the risk associated with driver frustration and unpredictable manoeuvres in constrained conditions.

From an operational and equity perspective, improved circulation will enhance access for emergency response vehicles, waste collection, deliveries, accessible transportation services, and residents requiring reliable pick-up and drop-off close to building entrances while also supporting safer and more efficient street operations.

For these reasons, GYRA strongly supports this long-overdue improvement and encourages Council to adopt the proposed amendments.

Yours truly,

Alan Baker
GYRA, President

Paul Bedford
Director of Community Planning

cc: Councillor Dianne Saxe – Ward 11