

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Ward 1
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Sent via email to maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca

August 17, 2020

Dear Maureen,

I'm writing as one of the people in our neighbourhood who are strongly opposed to the conversion of Aberdeen Avenue (between Dundurn and Queen streets) from four lanes to two, scheduled for this fall.

While I can certainly appreciate the associated traffic calming measures that have or will be implemented for Aberdeen, I have grave concerns about the ramifications of the lane reduction, as well as the fact that this change is happening without any significant public consultation or a traffic study.

Aberdeen is an important arterial road linking a mountain access and a major 400 series highway, and carries a fair amount of traffic - particularly during rush hour periods. Five traffic lights between Dundurn and Queen provide plenty of opportunities for children and other pedestrians to cross over, and serve to slow down traffic. With Aberdeen often congested as a result, motorists frequently cut through our quiet neighbourhood to travel more quickly to their destinations.

Fairly recent neighbourhood traffic calming measures have been largely ineffective, including speed bumps - which motorists can easily speed over - and enhanced signage to remind drivers to stop at key intersections - which are often ignored.

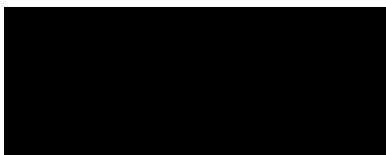
The result of the lane reduction will be even more motorists racing along our quiet streets, as well as local residents having to drive through the neighbourhood to Dundurn to get onto Aberdeen during times when Aberdeen is too congested - and visibility is reduced due to parked cars - to allow access.

With so many children riding scooters and bikes on local streets, and crossing roads while walking dogs and travelling to nearby parks, the risk of a serious accident will dramatically increase. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world dramatically since Council's June 2019 vote on this conversion. Social distancing is forcing people to step out on streets when meeting others on sidewalks, greatly increasing the chances of someone being hit.

Although I realize the lane reduction will be reviewed after one year, this is plenty of time for child to be critically injured. Is this a risk that you and other members of council are prepared to take? I would ask that you and your fellow council members reconsider the decision on the Aberdeen lane restriction in the interest of safety for our local neighbourhood residents.

Many thanks, Maureen.

Yours truly,



Tricia Hellingman



cc. Mayor and members of Hamilton City Council via clerk@hamilton.ca