

Alex Beer

June 18, 2020

Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
clerk@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

Regarding PW17021a (Ward 1)

I am writing about the plan to reduce the number of lanes on Aberdeen Avenue between Queen Street and Dundurn Street from four lanes to two. Several changes on this stretch have been made in the past few years, modifying traffic signal phasing, making pavement marking changes and adding two new intersection pedestrian signals at Kent and Cottage. These changes have added to the safety of the street.

However, I have spoken with several neighbours who, like me, live in Kirkendall south of Aberdeen, and we object to the plans to restrict Aberdeen from four to two lanes, with parking on each side.

We strongly feel this is a wrong move and recommend this plan be cancelled.

Aberdeen is a busy arterial road and a major link between Queen Street and Highway 403. Beckett Drive, known as the Queen Street hill, has average daily traffic of 19,000 vehicles, and already is known for traffic jams in both directions during rush hours.

We have been told that the change to Aberdeen is being made for the safety of pedestrians, including school children who live south of this street. They cross at one of the five stop lights at Queen, Kent, Locke, Cottage or Dundurn to go to one of the three schools on the north side.

But a City of Hamilton traffic report in 2018 ranked this stretch of Aberdeen as the 559th most dangerous in the city.

Reducing lanes will back up traffic significantly and more vehicles idling will cause an increase in greenhouse gasses. I understand that part of the city's Vision Zero Program is aimed at "reducing contributions to climate change".

We are sure that drivers stuck in clogged traffic will cut through our quiet neighbourhood streets to find a quicker way to Highway 403, West Hamilton or to the Queen Street hill.

This additional vehicle traffic will greatly increase the likelihood of serious accidents.

Children and vulnerable citizens should not be put at risk by increasing traffic on neighbourhood streets.

As well, it will be extremely difficult to turn onto Aberdeen from the side streets because of clogged traffic and parked cars obstructing the view. Drivers from our neighbourhood will have to travel to Dundurn to get to Aberdeen, resulting in even more traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

Traffic backups on Aberdeen Avenue will also impede emergency responders.

I ask that council please reconsider and cancel the plans for reducing the number of lanes on Aberdeen.

Sincerely,

Alex Beer