

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of City Council

C/o City Clerk, Hamilton City Hall

As homeowners who live on Spruceside Ave., we are opposed to the current plan for conversion of Aberdeen Ave. to two lanes. We believe that Aberdeen needs improved enforcement against speeding. We are concerned that the two lane conversion will add to further traffic congestion on Aberdeen during rush hour. Since moving to Spruceisde Ave. in 2012, we have regularly observed that congestion on Aberdeen has led impatient drivers to cut up side streets to Glenfern Ave. to try and access the Queen Hill that way. Currently, if there is a tie up at the Queen and Aberdeen light, cars race up Spruceside to try and beat the traffic. It makes no sense, as they still have to merge into the traffic going up the Queen Hill. We have a lot of young children on both Spruceside and Mapleside, who regularly go to the park at the base of these streets. I understand that Spruceside could go the way of Mapleside and get a speed bump. A helpful location would be at the south end of the park, where it would remind drivers of children playing in the neighbourhood. However, I lived on Charlton Ave. between 2000 and 2012 and a four way stop at Kent, a speed bump and bike lanes still did not slow traffic that much. Only police ticketing those running the stop sign during rush hour, seemed to have an effect.

We have concerns about parking expansion on Aberdeen and how parked cars might affect visibility for neighbourhood traffic exiting side streets on to Aberdeen. Currently, if we are turning left on to Aberdeen from Spruceside, we are on the lookout for cars coming down the Queen Hill turning left on to Aberdeen, cars coming south on Queen turning right on to Aberdeen, and cars coming eastbound on Aberdeen. If cars are parked too close to our intersection, that would hinder visibility for turning on to Aberdeen. Also if cars are parked across the street at the apartment building on Aberdeen, the cars coming south on Queen and turning right, slingshot into the centre lane, together with the cars turning left from the Queen Hill. A right turning lane from Queen going west on Aberdeen would alleviate part of that problem.

Because turning left on to Aberdeen during rush hour often feels like a game of Russian roulette, we often go the back way to Dundurn and access Aberdeen there. We anticipate more neighbourhood traffic taking this option. Therefore, it would be an increased safety improvement if the cars turning left onto Aberdeen from Dundurn South had an Advanced Green turn signal, especially when school resumes at Earl Kitchener. We agree with the no turn on red, along with the advanced pedestrian signal.

Finally, we would like to see an increased police presence catching red light runners at Locke and Aberdeen and at Glenfern and Spruceside to monitor speeders in the neighbourhood.

Yours truly,

Kathy Joynt and Dawson Pratt