

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Lane reduction---Aberdeen Avenue.

From: Frank Kovacs

Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2020 4:08 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Lane reduction---Aberdeen Avenue.

Mayor Eisenberger and Members of City Council

My wife and I are strongly opposed to the City of Hamilton's proposal to reduce Aberdeen Avenue--between Dundurn Street South and Queen Street--from 4 lanes to 2, adding parking lanes on each side.

We understand that some members of the City Council believe that this stretch of road is dangerous and that one lane in each direction will reduce injuries and death.

We have lived in the Kirkendall South neighbourhood for over 40 years. Our children attended Earl Kitchener and Ryerson public schools.

Our family, continuously, has navigated this neighbourhood, in general, and the above section of Aberdeen Avenue specifically for these many years. There is no doubt that traffic volume has steadily increased in our area during this time. To address the safety issues that have accompanied this increase, the City of Hamilton has instituted several measures.

There are five traffic lights on that stretch of Aberdeen, approximately ten blocks.

Pedestrians should be able to cross, quite safely, if they take time and effort to do so. In addition, there are crossing guards at two of the lights to help the students of E.K. and Ryerson cross this street safely.

There are some calming humps and several stop signs strategically placed in the streets that feed off of Aberdeen, increasing the level of safety for the residents of our neighbourhood. More than enough has been done to keep the pedestrians in our area safe.

Aberdeen is an arterial road which provides a crucial link between Queen Street and Highway 403. The four lanes provide a safe and efficient way of moving traffic. To change the number of lanes from two to one will have the opposite effect in regards to pedestrian safety.

Firstly, narrowing the street to just one lane each way will, not only, cause traffic jams but will encourage drivers to increase their speeds in order to get through the five traffic lights in that stretch of road between Queen and Dundurn Streets.

This would increase the danger for pedestrians trying to cross at any of the lights. Also, with the accompanying traffic jams, some pedestrians, including children, might be tempted to cross between lights, between the idling cars.

Secondly, the increased volume will make some drivers take short-cuts through the accompanying residential streets while they try to find a quicker route to their destination. That could mean that they would drive more quickly and would not be as aware of their surroundings

including any people crossing to their parked cars or to children who may be playing/ going to schools in these areas.
How many incomplete stops
would occur at the stop signs, as well?

In conclusion, we believe that Aberdeen is a safe thoroughfare for pedestrians and drivers who follow the rules.
Modifying the structure of the street will not provide a safer environment, rather negate many of the measures already
in place.

Suzanne and Frank Kovacs