

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Opposed to narrowing Aberdeen

From: brandon

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:07 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Opposed to narrowing Aberdeen

Hi Mayor Fred,

I have lived in the Durand neighbourhood my whole life and am strongly opposed to narrowing Aberdeen. I think it would cause much more serious problems than it would attempt to solve, and heighten danger in the area overall instead of decrease it.

Please advise if someone can prepare a map showing where all the dangerous accidents are occurring along Aberdeen, and when (what time of day/night). I think this would be the strongest piece of evidence to review before any decision is made. Please only include serious accidents where someone is injured (passengers or pedestrians) or where serious damage is done to property (public or private). Living in the community for almost 40 years I would suspect that most of these serious accidents are occurring at the Queen Street intersection. If this is the case, perhaps we can avoid making changes to the whole of Aberdeen when the issue should be how to change the misbehaviour of drivers up and down Queen.

1. If it turns out most of the dangerous accidents are occurring around the Queen Street intersection, and if most of those accidents are caused by traffic moving north or south (ie. trying to beat the red light) than I think everyone can agree that the danger is not in fact Aberdeen, but is Queen Street instead.
2. As well, if the accidents are often happening in the middle of the night when traffic volume is virtually non-existent then we can rule out the idea that traffic volume is the issue.
3. If it turns out that most of the accidents attributed to Aberdeen are actually occurring at the Queen intersection than maybe those in favor of adding parking lanes would have to concede that adding parking lanes on Queen would make more sense from their own safety standpoint.
4. If it turns out most of the dangerous accidents are occurring around Queen, then perhaps dangerous accidents are not happening along the length of Aberdeen precisely because there are no parking lanes on Aberdeen. As things stand now, the pedestrians have full visibility both ways on Aberdeen and the drivers on Aberdeen have full visibility of all pedestrians on both sides of the street. This simple feature prevents accidents, because both drivers and pedestrians are clearly visible to each other. If you start parking trucks and SUV's along Aberdeen then drivers will have their line of sight obstructed to the pedestrians on the street, and vice versa. No matter what speed you are travelling, having people run out between parked cars is very dangerous.

I think a map of serious accident locations would be very helpful to show where the issues actually are, and from that to determine what to do about them. I don't think a map of serious accidents should be that big of a request considering the cost/time involved in the currently proposed solution. I imagine that each serious accident report would have an address/intersection/location on it. I also imagine that accidents are rated or noted for severity, so perhaps we can mark accidents that are serious (involve bodily harm) in a different colour on the map from those that don't involve bodily harm (small fender bender stuff that is not serious). And if we can mark accidents by time (night and day) to determine if rush hour traffic volume is a factor or not. I would imagine the more ways we can categorize the accidents the better, as it would make sense to review the accidents one time really well and get as much detailed information as we can. I believe this would provide a much more detailed analysis than simply saying there are "x" amounts of accidents along Aberdeen, which doesn't account for where, when, how, why, severity, etc. If the goal is truly to make the area safer, then we need to examine where the danger is actually occurring and I don't think stating a number does

justice to the issue of finding out where/how/when the serious accidents are happening. It would be a shame (not to mention waste of taxpayer dollars) to go through all the trouble of narrowing Aberdeen only to find out it created more serious accidents overall in the neighbourhood, plus didn't stop what I suspect is the major issue in the first place which is cars racing up and down Queen Street trying to beat the red light.

Thank you Mayor Fred,

Brandon Schofield