

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Traffic calming on Aberdeen Avenue

From: Haider Saeed

Sent: September 9, 2020 9:54 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing this letter to express support for the traffic calming plan for Aberdeen Avenue. Traffic calming on Aberdeen was voted a "Top 5" project in the 2014 Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting process (a ward-wide, democratic process). Quite simply, the community wants this to happen.

There are many other reasons to support traffic on Aberdeen:

- 1) Slower speeds mean fewer and less serious motor vehicle collisions. People will also feel safer while walking down the street.
- 2) A calmed Aberdeen will lead to physical and mental health benefits, by encouraging more walking in the neighbourhood. As a family physician, I see the effects of inactivity in my practice every day and will always be in support of creating environments that will encourage people to be more active.
- 3) Increased walking will lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions (fewer car trips). Reduced speeds will also have this outcome.
- 4) A calmed street allows easier interactions with others, improves social connectedness and leads to a more cohesive neighbourhood.
- 5) Traffic calming creates an environment that makes it easier for ~everyone~ to use the street, including those with disabilities, those who are older, and those who are younger. Parents will be more confident to allow their kids to go to the library, school, stores and the Bruce Trail on their own. We will be creating a city that is the "best place to raise a child and age successfully."

My family practice is on Kenilworth Avenue North and I have seen the benefits that adding parking to that street has created. I have patients who have told me that they now walk to their appointments as it is simply a nicer place to walk now. We are asking for the same opportunity for Aberdeen Avenue that was implemented in Ward 4. City staff believe that the Aberdeen plan will work -- providing what the local community is asking for while at the same time not significantly affecting travel times.

I ask you all to support the implementation of parking on Aberdeen Avenue as a way to traffic calm the street.

Sincerely,
Haider Saeed

Haider Saeed, MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP