

Pilon, Janet

Subject: September 16 Council Meeting re: Parking & Traffic Calming on Aberdeen Ave

From: Ann McKay

Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 10:22 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re: September 16 Council Meeting re: Parking & Traffic Calming on Aberdeen Ave

Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I would like to start this letter by thanking Councillor Wilson for hosting 'Calming Aberdeen' an online forum with the City of Hamilton traffic engineering staff: E. Soldo, M. Field, D. Ferguson, M. Rahman, to discuss the planned changes to Aberdeen Ave in a 6 month pilot project. The forum was very informative and it was helpful to hear from the traffic engineers.

The Aberdeen road diet is planned to make travel safer for everyone. As pointed out by staff, the pilot project takes into account and builds upon the city policies: Vision Zero and Complete, Streets.

The city experts have studied Aberdeen Ave and have methods in place to monitor and improve safety.

Some highlights I took from the forum were:

- *parked cars will provide a safer, more comfortable experience for vulnerable pedestrians walking on the sidewalk
(possibly enticing more residents to walk and leave the car at home)
- *there have been less pedestrian injuries since some improvements to Aberdeen Ave have been addressed but there is still room for improvement (Vision Zero)
- *driving time from Fennel Ave along Aberdeen to the highway is presently 4 - 5 minutes, and with a road diet will be approximately 1 minute longer, 5 - 6 minutes
- *rat running will likely not occur as it is not worth the time to travel side streets due to a 1 minute delay
- *speeding on streets can be addressed through enforcement, engagement, education & engineering but with limited police resources the best option is in the design of the roadway
- *Kenilworth Ave road diet is a great comparison, with a motion for permanent features - congratulations to Sam Merulla for making his ward safer!
- *the traffic engineering staff will monitor and assess the pilot project and report back to council where it will be evaluated

In the case of Aberdeen Avenue, please stay true to your commitment of prioritizing safe streets for all users. (Excerpts from 'Integration of an All Ages and Abilities Assessment into Existing and Future Cycling Infrastructure' - PED20025)

City Vision, TMP & CMP

"One of the key strategic policies with the TMP is to foster and support the development of Complete-Livable-Better Streets for road users of all ages, abilities, and incomes. The TMP also highlights the importance of equity and the connection between Public Health and transportation infrastructure."

Complete, Liveable, Better Streets Design

“Currently, City staff is leading the development of a Complete, Liveable, Better Streets Design Manual (CLB) to provide principles and best practices for implementing Complete Streets in Hamilton. The manual will include a **focus on active** and sustainable modes of transportation and will be a significant enhancement for cycling infrastructure and street design in Hamilton.”

Vision Zero

“City Council’s commitment to Vision Zero in February 2019 provided staff with the direction to further establish a comprehensive program that expanded across the corporation. Vision Zero takes a Safe Systems approach to prevention. The goal of safe systems is to ensure that these mistakes do not lead to a crash, or, if a crash does occur, it is sufficiently controlled to not cause a death or a life-changing injury.

Vision Zero describes the end-product of a safe road transport system. The system must rely on a balance between travel speeds and the inherent safety of infrastructure and vehicles. The Safe Systems approach places the **highest priority on Safe Roads, the design of the roadway**. Safe roads are designed to reduce the risk of crashes occurring, and the severity of injuries, if a crash does occur. Safety features are incorporated into the road design from the outset and includes key elements such as **segregating road users by enhancing safer routes for vulnerable users.**”

Thanks,
Ann McKay
Ward 1