



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

August 18th, 2017

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services
City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W.

RE: A Traffic Light for Blake Public School (TE25.93)

Dear Barbara

I am writing to express my concern with the Transportation Services report "Traffic Control Signals - Jones Avenue and Boulton Avenue" that came to the June 13th Toronto and East York Community Council meeting.

When I brought Transportation Staff to meet with residents and school staff we watched as the lone crossing guard attempted to slow down some of the 10,800 vehicles that use Jones Avenue every day and the 1,018 vehicles that use Boulton Avenue to turn on to Jones. Even in my 30 minutes at the intersection we saw several instances of aggressive driving that endangered the hundreds of students who use this crosswalk each and every school day.

I was therefore surprised when the report recommended against replacing the crosswalk with a traffic signal.

I am puzzled that the staff report does not give any weight to the safety or number of pedestrians who cross at the crosswalk. Can you tell me if any data was collected on the number of pedestrians crossing at the crosswalk when the speed and volume counts were done and were any observations done to analyze if those pedestrians were crossing safely?

The crosswalk that exists now is used by students going to Blake Street Public School, École élémentaire Catholique du Bon-Berger, Riverdale Collegiate Institute, and Earl Grey Public School. Since school children are one of the areas of focus for the new VisionZero Road Safety Plan I believe that the use of this crosswalk by students from four different schools should have been given consideration when making the recommendation.



The staff report also states that there were 6 collisions at this intersection, one of which involved a pedestrian and one of which involved a cyclist. The staff's analysis found that two of these collisions could have been prevented by the installation of a traffic light.

Attached are 6 testimonials from local residents about their near misses at the crosswalk. These are the first of many residents who we will be hearing from over the next few months and they serve as an excellent example of what happens at this crosswalk constantly as kids and parents are walking to school.

Over the coming weeks I will be working with the local community to call for a traffic signal at Boutbee and Jones.

I look forward to discussing this issue further with you.

Sincerely,



City Councillor
Ward 30, Toronto - Danforth

Attachment 1: Six testimonials from residents about the dangers at the Jones and Boulbee Crosswalk.

CC:
John Tory
Jennifer Story, School Trustee, Ward 15
École élémentaire Catholique du Bon-Berger
Pocket Community Association
Eastview Community Centre