

Date: June 13, 2016

To: North York Community Council – City Clerk’s Office – Secretariat

Subject: Request for Implementation of 'Green Finger' at Avenue Rd and Brooke Ave

Summary:

The City's Official Plan calls for a significant proportion of future growth along the Avenues. Avenue Road between Lawrence Avenue West and Wilson Avenue was selected as one of three Avenue Studies to be undertaken in 2007. The Avenue Road Avenue Study reviewed and assessed the two-kilometre length of Avenue Road between Lawrence Avenue West and Wilson Avenue.

City Council on November 30, December 1, 2, 4 and 7th, 2009 adopted the final staff report for the Avenue Road Avenue Study and the twenty-one recommendations to create a framework for implementation and improvements along Avenue Road. Local area residents, business and property owners played a major role in the course of the Avenue Road study, participating in the review process through community consultation, and providing recommendations and feedback to the study team.

The Avenue Road Avenue Study is available on the City’s website at:

http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/city_planning/community_planning/files/pdf/avenue_fin_alreport_april2008.pdf

A key component of the Avenue Road study and one of the 21 recommendations is the creation of ‘green-fingers’ to provide for landscaping and plantings at the entrances to our neighbourhoods wherever possible on branching streets east and west of Avenue Road.

The function of Avenue Road as a primarily retail-oriented street is intended to be retained and new development or redevelopment will be required to maintain an active pedestrian scaled retail frontage. Improving the pedestrian experience and additional tree planting and landscaping is a key component of the recommendations.

A 4-storey mid-rise commercial development at 1912-1914 Avenue Road and north-west corner of Brooke Avenue, is presently under review for site plan approval (file # 14 242937 NNY 16 SA).

At this location, Brooke Avenue also has an irregularly wider road width at the west side of Avenue Road.

This motion is urgent due to the anticipation of the pending construction at 1912-1914 Avenue Road. This is an opportune time for the City to prepare for reconstruction to correct the Brooke Avenue alignment and in the process provide for a green finger on the west side of Avenue Road.

Recommendation:

That the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with the Public Realm Office, and Technical Services staff review and prepare a work plan to correct the Brooke Avenue alignment and provide for improvement to the pedestrian realm, including additional landscaping or tree plantings, and be prepared to implement such improvements in conjunction with the development at 1912-1914 Avenue Road.

Yours truly,



Christin Carmichael Greb
Toronto City Councillor, Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence