



August 16, 2017

Honourable Steven Del Duca, MPP, Vaughan
Minister of Transportation
By E-mail: sdelduca.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Re: Avenue Road - Hwy 401 Bridge Reconstruction Design Inconsistent With f Ontario Growth Plan

Dear Minister Del Duca

This is to request that the Ministry of Transportation ensure that the reconstruction of the Avenue Road – Highway 401 bridge includes infrastructure which ensures safety for all users: automotive, pedestrian and cycling. Or if this proves to be unfeasible, then a separate active transportation infrastructure (such as sky bridge) should be constructed.

As the federation of residents associations in North Toronto and North York we believe that it is now time to seriously address the needs of cyclists and pedestrians in several Highway 401 crossings in Toronto. These crossings represent a significant barrier, currently, to use of active transportation by residents and students across Toronto.

The latest plans for the Avenue Road bridge over Highway 401 do not include dedicated cycling infrastructure designed for improved safety of bicyclists. In fact they are counter to this objective. The proposed widened curb lanes encourage automotive traffic to increase speed as it approaches highway on-ramps, increasing the risk of collisions, while not providing a meaningful safety buffer between automotive traffic and cyclists. This bridge connects residential areas to the north with commercial and residential areas to the south. Elementary school students cross the highway to attend Summit Heights Public School.

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017 includes the following Policy:

3.2.2 Transportation - General

2. The *transportation system* within the *GGH* will be planned and managed to:
 - b. offer a balance of transportation choices that reduces reliance upon the automobile and promotes transit and *active transportation*;

FoNTRA supports this Policy, and believes that the reconstruction of the Avenue Road bridge for all users provides an opportunity for the Ontario government to demonstrate its commitment to its recently enunciated policy direction. And let this signal a new strategy to address the safety issues regarding 401 crossings city-wide for the many users who increasingly want to use active transportation.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel

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Cc: Honourable Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Michael Colle, MPP, Eglinton-Lawrence
Monte Kwinter, MPP, York-Centre
Councillor Christin Carmichael Greb
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Jared Kolb, Executive Director, Cycle Toronto
Shawn Dillon, Manager of Cycling Infrastructure & Programs, City of Toronto
Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director, Share the Road Cycling Coalition
Tom Worrall, Cycle Toronto
South Armour Heights Residents Assn (SAHRA)
Old Orchard Grove Residents Association (OOGRA)
Lytton Park Residents Organization (LPRO)

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.