



August 9, 2017

Honorable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation

Re: Avenue Road - Hwy 401 Bridge Reconstruction Design Inconsistent With Principles of Ontario Cycling Strategy

The South Armour Heights Residents' Association ("SAHRA") is an incorporated non-profit association founded in 1988 that represents 850 households in the Toronto area bordered by Highway 401 on the north, Brooke Avenue on the south, Yonge Boulevard on the east and Avenue Road on the west. The Avenue Road - Hwy 401 bridge is at the northwest corner of our area.

SAHRA supports the [position of Cycle Toronto](#). We too are disappointed that the latest plans for the Avenue Road bridge over Highway 401 do not include dedicated cycling infrastructure designed for improved safety of bicyclists. 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. Some elementary school students in the gifted programme at Summit Heights Public School live south of the highway. Suitable infrastructure would encourage Active Transportation of residents and students who live in these areas and beyond.

The province's Active Transportation policies in the [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017](#) should provide for infrastructure which encourages residents to walk and cycle. The reconstruction of the Avenue Road bridge provides an opportunity to incorporate appropriate infrastructure at reduced cost and reduced transportation upheaval compared to constructing the improvements as a self-standing project.

SAHRA calls on the Ministry of Transportation to ensure that the reconstruction of the Avenue Road – Highway 401 bridge includes infrastructure which ensures safety for all users: automotive, pedestrian and cycling.

Jim Sadler
Vice-President, South Armour Heights Residents' Association

cc: Honorable Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Honorable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Shawn Dillon, Manager of Cycling Infrastructure & Programs, City of Toronto
Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director, Share the Road Cycling Coalition
Michael Colle, MPP
Councillor C. Carmichael Greb
Jared Kolb, Executive Director, Cycle Toronto
Tom Worrall, Cycle Toronto
Geoff Kettel, Cathie MacDonald (FoNTRA)
Ron Johnson, Sheila Dunlop, Bob Williams, Gary Langdon, Anne Bauraind (SAHRA)
France Rochette, Pam Main (OOGRA)
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