

Traffic and Safety

Concerns: compiled prior to meeting

- Speed, temperature of traffic **throughout** neighbourhood – along streets, turning around corners, shooting out of parking lots, laneways, or making a run for main streets (Bloor, Dupont, Bathurst and Christie)
- Rolling or no stopping at intersections: bikes and cars. Palmerston, Follis and Barton are particularly bad
- Wrong way driving: bikes and cars – can apply to laneways in some instances
- Poor/misplaced or un-obvious signs. Obstructed signs. SIZE of signs and locations
- Illegal parking (not permit-parking related)
- turnabouts in intersections of streets to change direction
- Challenges with intersection at Bathurst/Wells and Olive Ave
- suspicious activity in some laneways
- U-haul drivers driving dangerously through the neighbourhood
- Specific concerns around Palmerston School, Vermont Park (Bill Bolton and St Albans)

Added via email:

- Bike traffic: not stopping/slowing down at intersections, gg up one way streets in opposite direction, speeding.
- Wrong way entry into Palmerston Sq from Palmerston Ave +/- or Barton Aves
- Utility vehicles, large trucks and TTC + wheel Trans vehicles along Barton to circumvent intersections and traffic along major thoroughfares
- Narrowing of intersections along Barton “should be fixed.” Since staggered parking was introduced, this causes major confusion and traffic congestion. Cars are getting swiped and drivers are resorting to using the sidewalk to create more road space.

“Every intersection in the neighbourhood has a personal story” It is important to understand the nature of the problem in order to find potential and feasible solutions.

Discussion at meeting -Contributing factors include:

- Obstruction of signage – overgrown trees at many intersections.
- “Blind” turns: foliage blocking sightlines
- Size and placement of signs (for eg. At north end of Palmerston Square @ Barton)
- How stop signs are disregarded – rolling stops or no stops and dangerous turns around corners THROUGHOUT neighbourhood.

- Cars and bikes going wrong way: danger to cyclist if go around a corner and into oncoming traffic/visibility and ability of driver (cyclist) to react effectively.
- School traffic.
- What are the traffic generators?
- Accessible “routes”: can there be further integration of maze?
- Construction on main arteries prompting more drivers to use neighbourhood as a cut through. Construction also causing increased frustration and impatience.
- **Barton St:** Many schools along Barton – St Raymond, Palmerston, St Georges, Institute of Child Study + Alliance Francaise, Huron St P.S.: Speed, volume, confusion, traffic backup owing to the confusion from curb extensions + staggered parking plan - it is the “death nail” for Barton St. First/last parking spot places are adding to back up throughout the neighbourhood. This is especially true at corner of Barton and Christie for vehicles entering the neighbourhood on Barton who turn L or R from the light.
JF: asked if stats had been collected by Transportation during study of staggered parking plan? Is a copy of study and results accessible?
Action: Areej looking into this.
Drivers speeding up to make lights at Bathurst St. Can we take the cycling route sign away? How does/does the designation contribute to the challenges?
- Cut ins at many intersections, for eg., Olive and Palmerston: large vehicles are driving up and over curb to make the turn. Tour/School buses barely missing utilities on corner and cars on road (I’ve twice seen TOUR BUSES?!?! Stuck in neighbourhood...). Also, traffic-calming container at Palmerston and Vermont adds to confusion, congestion and frustration.
- Are the existing traffic calming devices in neighbourhood effective or counter-productive?
- Peter the Crossing Guard: routinely and rudely disregarded, disrespected and often physically injured at the intersection of Barton and Palmerston. He has 3 shifts daily: morning 8:20 – 8:55am, 11:20 – 11:55am, 3:20 – 4:00pm. Drivers and cyclists disregard him, spit and yell at him, collide into him and show signs of disrespect. Cyclists and vehicle drivers disregard safety of people of all ages at the intersection too often not stopping or yielding to pedestrians.
- Lack of police enforcement throughout neighbourhood

U-Haul

- Area residents have been reporting via Facebook Seaton Village (Toronto) and emails to the SVRA the use of Follis Ave, Clinton St and Manning Ave as a cut through route for U-Haul drivers to/from their 2 locations on Bathurst St and Dupont St respectively. Driver’s extreme speeds, failure to stop, disregard for safety when pulling in and out of the lots, especially on Bathurst St, are causing significant safety concerns.
- Speeds of 60-70km/hr have been witnessed

- Vehicles are “blowing through” stop signs
- A parent and her stroller/child were almost run down as a driver pulled out of the Bathurst St retail lot (crazy antics were witnessed when the vacant lot at 1079 Bathurst was used).
- The trucks, with Arizona license plates, have been parked on Follis Ave – Follis is routinely used for overflow parking.
- It was reported that the owner denied driving recklessly, yet has been seen repeatedly speeding and failing to stop at Stop signs in the neighbourhood and specifically along Follis Ave.

ACTION: JH to follow up with PC Haywood and U-haul (Arizona head office)

Traffic Light at Bathurst and Wells Sts

Several distinct challenges at this intersection

1. Turning right from Wells onto Bathurst St: drivers emerge recklessly turning north onto Bathurst. This is a significant risk, especially for pedestrians. The sightlines behind the lines of the intersection are obscured by landscaping and a fence, hydro utilities + sometimes by parked cars on Bathurst. Drivers often commit to turning right on the red when cars travelling at very fast speeds north along Bathurst approach the intersection and the driver is already well into the intersection. Drivers fail to stop properly on the red light or disregard pedestrians at the intersection. The walk prompt ONLY works if button used. The light is also VERY long for N/S traffic. Wait times are encouraging J-Walking
2. Drivers all too often turning LEFT onto Wells St – is NO ENTRY signage apparent?

N.B. Placement of City of Toronto Street Furniture Garbage bin = can NOT open doors of the bus.

ACTION: JH and MF to raise concerns around garbage containers along Bathurst St at Bathurst St Study Meetings

Proposed Solutions

Solutions may evolve from an understanding of the traffic generators + why these things are happening. The approach to resolving challenges must be more holistic vs. fragmented/“piecemeal” as has been done thus far. This has not provided meaningful or lasting results.

- Can we have a cross walk at Bathurst St and Vermont Ave?
- Can physical barriers be built along a designated safe walk route to and around the school?

- Are speed bumps proven to be successful? Or, do drivers become more foolish when present
- Lights to have walk prompts, alter duration of light
- Better, bigger, enhanced visibility of – NOT NECESSARILY MORE – SIGNAGE
- Raised intersections have been discussed in the past – especially on Palmerston Ave.
- Painting intersections (Roadsworth inspired)
- Textured pavement
- Peaceful Protest
- ENFORCEMENT and police presence
- Publicity

Action:

1. **Transportation** (Arshad Nazir, Senior Transportation Technologist with Transportation Services, City of To + **Councillor Vaughan's office/Arrej** will review problems raised at the meeting and come back to SVRA/Seaton Village so we can formulate plans to deal with/treat problems;
2. PC Haywood **Community Response Traffic Unit 14 Division**: wants to hear from the community regarding traffic and safety challenges. His email is bradley.haywood@torontopolice.on.ca PC Haywood and Sgt Catherine White are hoping to be a proactive presence in the neighbourhood. Please put North End/Seaton Village in the subject line of any emails.
3. **JH and SVRA** to enlist community and school volunteers to raise awareness, imagine creative solutions (Peter the Crossing Guard) and peaceful protests – include the press?!
4. **Jh** to bring concerns to Palmerston School Council