

November 2, 2008

VIA INTERNET

Councillor Cliff Jenkins
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Re Current Don Mills Roadways and Don Mills Commercial.

Why do I and many other residents whom I have talked to in the last few days get the feeling that you as councillor have abandoned Don Mills?

Why do we have to find out about local changes when it is too late to make sound suggestions, or when we hear from other councillors, or when we are in the middle of a mess?

Why is the City giving carte blanche to construction crews that are not even on the city payroll and allow them not only to block off the right lane of Lawrence Ave E., but also the centre turning lane, twice a day, in the last few working days, pinching traffic to one lane and creating traffic jams? When the workmen turn their stop sign to permit a preferred construction vehicle to turn, this brings everything to a standstill. To make a turn onto Lawrence Ave E from the Donway West sometimes takes 3 traffic lights, but only by pushing and scoffing. Traffic is often backed up to Leslie Street, with cars adding nicely their pollution through idling engines.

Why are private pick-up trucks permitted to park in the centre lane, blocking potential movement and rerouting of automobiles?

Where are the police to direct or redirect traffic? The arrogance of the construction company is evident in the large signs put up for pedestrians, which read "Pedestrian Traffic prohibited" instead of saying "closed for construction" or "use other sidewalk"?

Why does the City still permit the reconstruction of a boulevard without a bicycle lane when the Secondary Plan policies advocate a bicycle system since 1987? This is exactly the reason why we have to pay taxes for everything twice and three times over.

Why does the City not use the documents written by its own staff and approved councillors and implement them?

Why does the City not listen to residents when asked for services? On behalf of the residents, I had proposed the bicycle system several times over a few years. Why do we have to pay for expensive BICYCLE PLAN Reports and lanes elsewhere, when the city is not prepared to implement the same in Don Mills? Why does staff refuse the opportunity to start a bicycle system in Don Mills?

Why has the City permitted the partial reconstruction of the boulevard along Don Mills Road with barriers instead of preparing the boulevard for a bicycle path, especially when the transportation department has asked for a widening in relation with the installation of an LRT? Do we need more barriers instead of trees?

Why does your staff insist on flower planting beds squarely placed in the boulevard when they know that there is insufficient room for pedestrians? All the natural green space is lost because the City allowed the developer to over-build the setback limits. The City is already out of luck when any road widening is required. When will the City realize that Lawrence Ave E. is of the same category as Don Mills Road and in need of the same treatment?

Why does your staff insist on planting beds for flowers when residents expected the replacement of the cut-down 25-year-old trees? Trees in flowerbeds after a couple of years will be like wilted long-stemmed flowers after the first frost framed by a 6-foot pine box. There is no room to expand to their full size, without sufficient soil, with no light and no air. Other than a Bonsai, no tree will ever reach its full potential in the flowerboxes. Shade or shelter for pedestrians will never be attained.

Why does your staff insist on impermeable poured concrete instead of environmentally and people-friendly pavement similar to unit pavers? The sidewalk of Lawrence Ave E is already overshadowed by a façade looking like the Trojan Wall. The reason for the fancy additional street lights in front of the flowerboxes I take it is that pedestrians will not fall into these? Again this is another costly maintenance item for which we will have to pay additional taxes, simply because of somebody else's folly.

Why must we continually breathe the dust and dirt from the construction site? One day it is from trucks carrying dirt, not only in their bucket but on tires from the parking monstrosity. The next day, like today for example, it is dust from concrete-cutting machines that is carried by the wind throughout the community. Windows of my residence over one kilometer away and those of many other residences look as if we were near a cement factory. People with asthma and other breathing problems have a hard time going outdoors. Other construction sites, for example the Harley-Davidson along Lawrence Ave. E., just east of the DVP site, do not pollute the environment like Cadillac Fairview's contractors. I often wonder how many truckloads of sand and silt have washed down the sewers into the Don River, especially with all the rainfall we have had.

I had expected that we as residents would get at least a detailed Community update briefing, like the Transportation Department has done. Community meetings / discussions 4 times a year would have been appreciated. There are many more questions to be answered.

Yours truly



Karl Frank,

cc. Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Councillor John Parker Councillor Shelley Caroll
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