



Letter from a Concerned Resident

Dear RA:

I would appreciate consideration of my thoughts below.

1. *Transportation:* As a life-long resident of Scarborough, I am very concerned about the assumption that public transit will be the most appropriate mode of access. By 2030, 1 in 4 people will be over 65. TTC is not the best or healthiest choice for them, regardless of the weather.

As one ages there are increasing health issues. Medical appointments become more frequent, sometimes requiring subsequent specialist appointments, testing centres, hospital and pharmacy visits. An autonomous, mentally and physically able person with access to a vehicle can navigate these trips alone. Yes, there is the option of hiring a taxi for the trip there and back which adds to their living expenses. More often a friend, family member or caregiver assumes this role as 'chauffeur' as the Senior requires assistance physically or cognitively.

I am also concerned about disabled folks and families with children. Parking will be a significant departure from the present. Look at the influx of condos being built or proposed along major arteries like Kingston Road. The space between the curb to the façade of the condo is minimal compared to Toronto's established urban centre. There is no recessed or sheltering overhang to protect them from inclement weather or snowbanks created from roadway clearance. Nor is there operational retail space to access, as it appears the lack of customer parking and possibly a high retail rental fee retards these ventures.

Increasingly the streetscapes are becoming wind tunnels created by the elimination of our familiar plaza strips of 2 storeys with accommodating parking lots to abutted walls of 11 or more 'middle storey' condos. These are not welcoming or 'walkable' routes so often touted by the Toronto planning department at community consultations.

2. *Schools and Concerns about Traffic Congestion:* Public property needs to be reserved for future schools with residents moving into the community. If Toronto Planning is successful with their residential intensification of 'the missing middle' aka the suburbs, our existing residential single-family properties will become entities of the past.

The massing of housing in 11 storey or higher condos will impose significant demands on the school boards to provide accommodation. Their budgets are already constrained. Note the posters currently mounted along proposed condo sites warning of limited local school accommodation. In the interim, the children will most likely be bused to more distant schools. Perhaps some will be interred in 'communities of portables' adjacent to existing schools. Children require playgrounds for their mental and physical health, but these facilities are being increasingly restricted.

I understand that there is a proposed TDSB school embedded into a condo type building downtown. Are there lands reserved for a playground for that acclaimed project? Parents of young children tend to drive the children back and forth to school. There are traffic and congestion implications seemingly not considered in the densification growth plan. More importantly is the safety of the children and families who require walkable access to the schools.

*Sincerely,
Concerned Resident*