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RE: Safe and Convenient Pedestrian Crossings for the Durand Neighbourhood

Dear Mr. Solomon and Mr. Bender,

Environment Hamilton has recently learned about the Durand Neighbourhood Association's (DNA) campaign for safe and convenient pedestrian crossings on their neighbourhood's busy streets. The DNA has identified pedestrian safety and the current lack of pedestrian crossings as major issues of concern.

Dr. Nicholas Kevlahan, Vice President of the Association, has shared with us the details of the DNA's campaign to see improvements in their neighbourhood that will make walking a safer and more enjoyable experience for all.

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the DNA's campaign. We urge the city to consider adopting a more proactive approach to enhancing neighbourhood walkability by embracing the recommendations the neighbourhood has made to you. More specifically, we believe the city must:

- Develop a new traffic policy that places high priority on pedestrian safety – including the adoption of a proactive approach to the installation of pedestrian crossings (IPS).
- Engage interested community members in the development of the policy and consider implementation of a pilot of the new policy in the Durand Neighbourhood.
- Assess the need for both traffic calming (stricter speed limits and other methods) and the conversion of one-way streets back to two-way streets in order to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety on neighbourhood streets.

There is a growing, world-wide movement for more walkable cities. Hamilton is no exception; more and more neighbourhoods are pushing for the city to make changes to support their desire to enjoy the benefits of more sustainable modes of transportation. We are working with a number of these neighbourhoods and applaud their efforts to influence the manner in which their communities are evolving. Active residents such as members of the DNA know the needs of their neighbourhoods better than anyone else - their concerns must be heeded and their needs addressed.

We also note that the growing interest in walkable cities has also been supported by the city at both the bureaucratic and political level. As you are aware, Mayor Eisenberger has signed the International Charter for Walking. The city has hosted neighbourhood workshops with Gil Penalosa, the world-renowned champion of sustainable transportation and head of Walk and Bike for Life. The time is now to take some serious steps to ensure that city policy reflects the messages being sent to community members from both political and bureaucratic representatives of the municipality.

We look forward to your response and are eager to work with you to see the proposed changes become reality.

Yours sincerely,



Lynda M. Lukasik, PhD
Executive Director

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cc Councillor Bob Bratina – Ward 2
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