



WALK TORONTO ACTIVITY AND MEDIA MENTION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016

Walk Toronto is a grassroots pedestrian advocacy group that works with various levels of government, other advocacy groups, and the public to make Toronto a better city for walking.

Here is a list of Walk Toronto initiatives and activities in 2016. Walk Toronto was represented by various different members of its volunteer steering committee.

** Note: Walk Toronto has no budget or paid staff.*

Deputations and advocacy to City of Toronto and other governments

- In-person deputation regarding Toronto's Road Safety Plan, June 20, 2016. As a result of the concerns expressed by Walk Toronto and others, echoed in the press, the plan was referred back to staff for more funding, a new commitment to reduce road fatalities and injuries by 100% and the inclusion of further areas for reduced speed limits and intersection re-engineering.
(<http://walktoronto.ca/index.php/w/local-issues/walk-toronto-deputations-about-torontos-road-safety-plan/>)
- Annual meeting with City of Toronto senior winter operations staff, Transportation Services, July 5, regarding improving sidewalk snow clearing operations in Toronto.
- Began series of regular walks on streets of Toronto with Roger Browne, City of Toronto traffic safety manager, to observe and discuss traffic safety issues.

- Letter (August 25, 2016) to John Livey, Deputy City Manager, regarding hiring of new General Manager of Transportation Services
(<http://walktoronto.ca/index.php/w/local-issues/walk-toronto-writes-deputy-city-manager-about-choice-next-general-manager-transportation-services/>)
- Letter (Nov. 18, 2016) to Hon. Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, in favour of allowing speed cameras at any location
(<http://walktoronto.ca/index.php/w/local-issues/walk-toronto-urges-ontarios-transportation-minister-expand-scope-safety-cameras/>)
- Letter (Nov. 20, 2016) to Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee regarding sidewalk paver maintenance fees and walkability
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/pw/comm/communicationfile-64228.pdf>)
- Deputant in favour of Toronto Public Health report, Preventing Injuries from Wintertime Slips and Falls in Toronto, Nov. 21, 2016 (2016.PW17.14)
(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW17.14>)
- Written submission (April 22, 2016) to Public Works Committee re Pedestrian Crossing Protection, Victoria Park Ave. (
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/pw/comm/communicationfile-60144.pdf>)
- Written submission (April 25, 2016) to Public Works Committee re Construction of Sidewalk on Usher Ave.
- Various informal discussions (in person or by telephone) with people at City Hall, including: Councillors, their staff, the Mayor's Office, members of Pedestrian Projects, City Cycling, Traffic Operations, Planning, Parks Forestry & Recreation, Toronto Public Health, Public Consultation Unit, etc.

Representation at stakeholder consultations

- Stakeholder in development of City of Toronto *Complete Streets Guidelines* (involving a series of meetings and written input)
- Participated in series of stakeholder consultations regarding the Toronto Road Safety Strategic Plan
- Participation in Consumers Next, Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, and Lower Yonge Precinct Local Advisory Committees (LACs)
- Participated in series of consultations for Midtown in Focus planning study
- Participated in stakeholder consultations for TOcore Parks & Public Realm planning study (focusing on the downtown planning district)
- Stakeholder in Unilever precinct (East Harbour) development consultations organized by site owner First Gulf
- Participated in a Lessons Learned meeting (June 9) of the TTC Leslie Barns Construction Liaison Group (CLG), a wrap-up to regular CLG meetings held during 2013-2015 (as part of which, Walk Toronto and other AT supporters successfully advocated for increased sidewalk clearway width to meet Ontario accessibility standards)

- Spoke about importance of sidewalks at Lawrence Park Environmental Assessment public consultation, May 26.
- Participated in stakeholder discussions and workshops as part of the creation of the City of Toronto's Road Safety Plan
 - Invitee, Road Safety Plan Roundtable Discussion January 2016
- Participated in workshop on Accessible Pedestrian Signals conducted by the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Nov. 28
- Participated in stakeholder consultation and press conference for Downtown Yonge planning study
- Joined the City Of Toronto's Seniors Accountability Table as a founding participant. The Accountability Table looks at a variety of issues affecting elders, including transportation and public realm inclusion and safety. Its reports are considered binding on Council.
- Represented on the City of Toronto's Transportation Services Accessibility Advisory Panel

Initiatives with other advocacy groups

- Letter with Cycle Toronto and Toronto Environmental Alliance (February 11, 2016) to Mayor John Tory and federal Minister of Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohi, to include walking and cycling projects in infrastructure funds
(<http://walktoronto.ca/index.php/w/local-issues/active-transportation-groups-call-federal-government-fund-pedestrian-cycling-infrastructure/>)
- As a member of The Vulnerable Road Users Coalition (with Bike Law Canada, The Bike Network, The Seniors Network, Cycle Toronto, Hoof and Cycle) met twice yearly and advocated on behalf of vulnerable road users for greater road safety at the provincial level.
 - Participated in separate meetings with Ontario's Minister of Transportation and Attorney-General to discuss the introduction of a Vulnerable Road User's law.
 - Meeting with Toronto Police Services regarding language used to communicate about pedestrian and cyclist fatalities to the press and the public (e.g. avoiding victim-blaming).
- Co-founded the Accessibility Coalition with other groups (StopGap, Cycle Toronto, Cycling without Age, Friends and Families for Safe Streets) to push for real action on accessibility and to address a proposal that would have allowed private vehicles with accessibility permits to park on bike lanes, which would have potentially jeopardised the safety of pedestrians with accessibility needs.
 - Accessibility Coalition press conference, Dec 12, 2016
 - The proposal was deferred, and is not likely to be re-introduced
- Co-founder of Friends and Families for Safe Streets (FFSS) (October 2016) with partners Vulnerable Road Users Group (of which Walk Toronto is a member); Cycle Toronto; Slow Down, Kids at Play; Bike Law Canada. Founded to give a voice to people who have survived, and those who are bereaved because of road violence. Launched on October 25th of 2016, the group has two main 'pillars': advocacy to change the culture

on the roads, and a peer-support program to provide assistance to families and individuals. Walk Toronto is an active supporter of FFSS activities. Walk Toronto provided the expertise to develop training and protocols for the peer-support program, as well as on-going facilitation of the group meetings.

- First Peer-support meeting of FFSS, Nov 20, 2016 the International Day of Mourning of Victims of Road Collisions

Public outreach

- Co-sponsored and co-led Jane's Walk, "Walking around Gerrard Square", May 7, 2016 (<http://janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/walking-around-gerrard-square/>)
- Led Jane's Walk, "Bloor on Wheels: Prepare to be Bloored!", May 8, 2016 - accessibility theme. (<http://janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/bloor-wheels-prepare-be-bloored/>)
- Liaison with senior staff at Jane's Walk headquarters
- Spoke at Bathurst-Finch Unison HUB on pedestrian safety issues in North York (June 23, 2016)
- Informal walks during Open Streets Toronto events, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18
- Walk Toronto shared a booth with Jane's Walk at the GoodLife Fitness Toronto Marathon expo, April 29 and 30
- Briefed canvassers for the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) on pedestrian issues (May 2016)

Reports and Studies

- Audit walk of new Queen's Quay sidewalk/bike path, cataloguing accessibility issues, in cooperation with Gord Brown of the Harbord Village Residents' Association (Oct. 15)
- Issued report on multimodality and Toronto's main commercial street: "Walk Toronto Comments on Bloor Bike Lane Pilot Project", Jan. 2016 (<http://tinyurl.com/WalkTOBloor>)

Recognition

- Walk Toronto co-founder Michael Black received (Feb. 24) Active Transportation Champion of the Year Award (from Toronto Centre for Active Transportation)

Media events

- Silent protest at launch of pedestrian-blaming official "Be Alert, Be Seen" safety campaign, Toronto Police Headquarters, November 1.
- In collaboration with Cycle Toronto, organized a Press Conference to highlight the need for significant road safety policy with a more daring target than the City's proposed 20% reduction of fatalities and serious injuries (June 15).

Press mentions

Walk Toronto and its spokespeople were quoted or mentioned in the press about pedestrian issues over 80 times in 2016, including in Toronto's widest-circulation newspapers (*Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, *Metro Toronto*) and radio and TV news. Here is a list of these appearances.

Note: the following list is not in any order due to the volume of items.

1. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/deadly-year-for-pedestrians-in-toronto-a-wake-up-call-to-improve-road-safety/article33452964/>
2. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/meet-the-new-kind-of-street-coming-toronto/article32828137/>
3. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/group-takes-aim-at-road-violence/article32531388/>
4. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/toronto-urged-to-increase-spending-on-road-safety/article30897682/>
5. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/toronto-scrambles-to-find-more-funding-for-road-safety-plan/article30532439/>
6. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/family-friends-of-people-killed-by-toronto-drivers-blast-city-for-slow-action/article30469247/>
7. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/torontos-safety-plan-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists-faces-revisions/article30440078/>
8. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/more-than-160-pedestrians-killed-by-vehicles-since-2011/article30391640/>
9. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/12/12/cycling-advocates-gear-up-to-fight-the-use-of-bike-lanes-by-people-with-mobility-issues.html>
10. <https://www.thestar.com/news/pedestrian-road-safety/2016/12/12/how-to-fix-deadly-toronto-intersection-at-eglinton-and-victoria-park.html>
11. <https://www.thestar.com/news/pedestrian-road-safety/2016/12/12/advocates-push-to-change-the-way-people-talk-about-car-accidents.html>
12. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/11/21/bike-lanes-eyed-as-loading-zones-for-those-aiding-the-disabled.html>
13. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/11/01/distracted-walking-a-road-safety-risk-insurer-warns.html>
14. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/10/27/toronto-councillor-showcases-citys-progress-on-road-safety-plan.html>
15. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/transportation/2016/09/23/more-than-1000-cyclists-and-pedestrians-hit-on-toronto-streets-since-june-1.html>

16. https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2016/07/12/torontos-road-safety-plan-may-get-more-money.html
17. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/07/06/cars-take-deadly-toll-on-pedestrians-cyclists.html>
18. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/06/20/ambitious-new-goal-but-no-extra-money-for-toronto-road-safety-plan.html>
19. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/06/15/mayor-torlys-road-safety-plan-may-change-but-not-the-funding.html>
20. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/06/12/riskiest-spots-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists-get-new-rules-in-road-safety-plan.html>
21. <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2016/01/14/five-ways-to-make-our-roads-safer-in-2016.html>
22. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/12/11/november-dangerous-month-toronto-pedestrians.html>
(<https://www.thestar.com/news/pedestrian-road-safety/2016/12/11/a-dangerous-month-on-the-roads-led-to-70-collisions-with-pedestrians-cyclists.html>)
23. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/11/29/toronto-road-safety-education-campaign-planned-for-spring.html>
24. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/31/pedestrian-advocates-take-issue-with-new-safety-campaign.html>
25. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/21/toronto-saw-18-pedestrian-accidents-in-one-day.html>
(<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/10/21/10-pedestrians-were-struck-thursday-morning-by-evening-8-more-were-hit.html>)
26. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/21/ten-pedestrians-hit-by-drivers-thursday-morning.html>
27. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/11/should-toronto-change-the-pedestrian-countdown-law.html>
28. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/17/road-safety-begins-with-a-cultural-shift.html>
29. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/15/metro-redesigns-toronto-worst-intersections-.html>
30. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/14/lower-speed-limits-toronto-plan-to-reduce-pedestrian-deaths.html>
31. <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/transportation/2016/06/13/reduced-speed-limits-part-of-toronto-plan-to-reduce-pedestrian-deaths.html>
32. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/13/critics-say-torontos-new-road-safety-plan-is-too-modest-.html>
33. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/13/toronto-deadly-streets-hear-from-the-experts.html>
34. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/06/toronto-police-pilot-project-intersections.html>

35. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/01/07/toronto-officials-vow-to-adopt-plan-based-on-vision-zero.html>
36. <http://globalnews.ca/news/2640893/reality-check-distracted-walking-isnt-a-big-problem-distracted-driving-is/>
37. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/10/20/seven-pedestrians-struck-within-an-hour-in-toronto.html>
38. <https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2016/07/15/province-says-toronto-can-ban-texting-while-walking.html>
39. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/protest-be-alert-be-seen-campaign-walk-toronto-1.3831404>
40. <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/metro-morning/segment/8305710>
41. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/17/being-a-pedestrian-in-a-wheelchair-in-toronto.html>
42. <http://www.cp24.com/news/accessibility-advocates-speak-out-against-mixing-cycling-and-drop-off-space-1.3200066>
43. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/bike-lane-parking-1.3893126>
44. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/12/16/toronto-deadly-streets-in-review-accessible-intersections.html>
45. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/07/22/metro-talks--torontos-deadly-streets.html>
46. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/11/01/speeding-chronic-issue-at-site-of-toronto-halloween-crash.html>
47. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/07/14/toronto-city-council-finds-cash-for-more-road-safety-plans.html>
48. <https://www.thestar.com/news/pedestrian-road-safety/2016/12/11/most-pedestrian-deaths-occurring-outside-torontos-road-safety-plan-analysis.html>
49. <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/will-torontos-sidewalk-wars-become-a-messy-debate-of-the-past/article29026822/>
50. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/10/25/green-space-gives-new-life-to-cemeteries.html>
51. <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2016/07/11/reducing-speed-limits-quickest-way-to-road-safety.html>
52. <https://www.thomsonrogers.com/news/pedestrian-accident-stats/>
53. <http://spacing.ca/toronto/2016/04/26/signal-distance-factor/>
54. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/01/03/will-2016-be-the-year-toronto-gets-serious-about-road-safety.html>
55. <http://www.zkyonp.cn/lyyou/201611/15.html>
56. <http://spacing.ca/toronto/2016/03/16/54416/>
57. <https://thebulletin.ca/keeping-feet-and-bike-wheels-dry-may-be-possible-with-redesigned-riverdale-pedestrian-bridge/>
58. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/08/22/toronto-needs-transformative-transportation-chief.html>

59. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/09/26/safety-advocates-not-thrilled-by-john-torys-congestion-plan.html>
60. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/09/26/safety-advocates-not-thrilled-by-john-torys-congestion-plan.html>
61. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/12/14/toronto-deadly-streets-review-lower-speed-limits.html>
62. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/12/13/toronto-deadly-street-in-review-design-as-safety-solution.html>
63. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/11/01/toronto-pedestrian-advocates-to-protect-new-safety-campaign.html>
64. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/10/27/city-officials-in-toronto-tout-new-road-safety-improvements.html>
65. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/08/23/infrastructure-investment-means-safer-streets-in-toronto.html>
66. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/07/18/pedestrian-advocates-call-for-meeting-with-toronto-police.html>
67. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/07/12/toronto-road-safety-plan-could-see-budget-boosted.html>
68. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/20/toronto-road-safety-plan-could-see-a-budget-boost.html>
69. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/17/saving-lives-can-save-money.html>
70. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/15/victims-of-toronto-deadly-streets-call-for-change.html>
71. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/06/16/deadly-streets-how-laws-can-save-lives.html>
72. http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/metromorning_20160615_71831.mp3
73. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/road-safety-plan-timid-walk-toronto-1.3635765>
74. <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/metro-morning/segment/10664399>
75. CBC TV: "CBC at Six" News November 22, 2016; CBC Evening News June 15, 201
76. <http://www.zoomerradio.ca/show/fight-back-on-zoomer-radio/mayor-john-tory-maureen-coyle-october-3/>
77. TALK Radio AM 640 CFMJ: Oct 31, July 22
78. NewsTalk Radio1010 CFRB: Oct 30, 2016
79. City TV: December 11, 2016
80. CP24 TV: December 12, 2016