

Echo Drive: Possible Safety Enhancements

(Draft: December 2, 2014)

At the OOECA Annual general meeting November 11, 2014, one person (not sure who) raised the question of whether there could be safety improvements for users of Echo Drive. So several OOECA board members met with OSCA board members and others to discuss this. Below is the summary of the discussion. Please contact info@ottawaeast.ca with your thoughts on this discussion.

Everyone loves the easy feel of the street now and wants to retain that ambiance. Echo provides a unique, lovely and useful feature shared by OOS and OOS. That said, there are some safety concerns, as noted below.

The Avenue Road / Riverdale to Bank Section:

1. Strong support from Ottawa South reps for continuation of current Avenue to Bank situation (shared space for walking, cycling, and cars)
2. Identified problems by Theresa (mainly) about peak hour traffic of the Royal College traffic posing dangers to pedestrians, especially students
3. Possible solutions being marked street to direct pedestrians to house side, flags to delineate pedestrian lane, speed limit reduction to 25 kph, etc.
4. Possible exit to Bank from College - either a small lane to facilitate Bank North only traffic or moving barriers to east side of College driveways - some resistance to both
5. Need for Echo resident representation on any group studying the issue
6. Need reinstatement of barriers on Colonel By slope

Other Echo Issues Mentioned:

1. Need to have cyclists yield as they pass through barriers at various locations (e.g., Hazel) and for cyclists to give right of way to pedestrians
2. Re-alignment of cyclists/pedestrian traffic/ cars at Clegg when Colonel By lights put up, plus new barriers at north side of Clegg at Echo (see attached)
3. Traffic illegally going north at Church of Ascension - "no entry" camera?
4. Traffic increasing in southbound direction at Church of Ascension due to Main blockage - it's legal, have to monitor effects
5. Possibility of making the Echo/Graham/Colonel By intersection to see if we can make that work more safely (Don and I discussed this after the meeting).

Next Steps

1. Talk with City Staff (Phillipe Landry +?) to determine if current Echo road and pedestrian provisions / configuration meet current standards and what options there are for improving safety - Winnie and Ron
2. Raise issues in OSCAR / Between the Bridges / Mainstreeter / at community association board meetings - John, Kathy, Winnie
3. Canvass / solicit interest / opinion of Echo residents (esp. in Avenue to Bank stretch but also in OOE portion) - Sue, Winnie, Theresa
4. Check interests / concerns with other groups of primary users (Hopewell school council, Southminster Church, Sunnyside Library users, +?) - Winnie, +??
4. Meet Councillor Chernushenko to discuss - TBD
5. Present options to Community Association boards - Winnie, John
6. Meet with Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons - TBD
7. Revise rec's, submit to community association boards, seek City and College endorsement - TBD