

We are writing in response to the feasibility study looking at converting Elmwood and Bruce St from one-way to two-way traffic.

We are not commenting on Elmwood Avenue other than to say it could likely more easily accommodate two way traffic because of its width.

We have lived on Bruce Street for almost 30 years, so our comments are based on considerable experience living on Bruce Street. In particular, our comments will reflect our concerns pertaining to the street layout for the two blocks from Wortley Road to Ridout Street S.

Over the years, we have witnessed many wrong way drivers on our street. About twenty-five years ago, we wrote to City Hall suggesting better signage and/or a triangular island/median be placed at the corner of Ridout Street and Bruce Street to mitigate the occurrence of wrong-way drivers. Signage was improved but there is still no triangular median in place to prevent wrong-way drivers from entering Bruce Street from Ridout St.

We do have concerns, however, with the thought of changing the traffic flow from one-way to two-way. In the two block section of Bruce Street referenced above, we have Bus Service (Westmount route) and on-street parking with a two hour limit on the north side. When the bus is stopped at the corner of Marley, there is precious little room for traffic to pass on the left if there are cars parked on the street. In addition, in these two blocks of Bruce St., there are 11 shared (mutual) driveways and 3 properties with front (boulevard) parking only (no driveway). That means those residents and their guests do not have the option of parking in the shared driveway, so on-street parking is a must!

We also have many businesses & their customers/clients parking on this section of Bruce St., namely:

- Millard George Funeral Home at the corner of Bruce/Ardaven & Ridout,
- a dental office + 3 other commercial tenants at 195 Bruce Street,
- a large property with conversion to office use at the southwest corner of Ridout & Bruce Streets
- a hair dressing business at 191 1/2 Bruce St and another at 156 Bruce St
- The Yoga Shack at 154 Bruce Street

In addition, many properties in the two block stretch have multiple residential units

- #159 Triplex
- #163 Duplex
- #169 Duplex
- #171 Triplex
- #173 Fourplex
- #187 Sixplex
- #196 – 7 units
- #194 - Triplex
- #190 - Duplex
- #160 - Fourplex
- #183 -Fourplex

Five years ago, Bruce Street was totally re-done. Was there no thought given to this two-way proposal at that time? With this combination of higher residential density, commercial use and fewer private driveways, on-street parking is of major importance. Curb to curb Bruce Street is only 25' wide. With this minimal width, I think if the street was converted to two way traffic, there would be no room for on-street parking. So, does that mean the street would be widened & we would lose some of our established boulevard? We would not be happy to see this happen. At the very least, if road widening is necessary, the additional roadway should be taken from the south side of Bruce Street – avoiding the re-location of hydro poles and the removal of more trees on the north side - which, by the way, have already been aggressively pruned & misshapen to accommodate hydro lines.

We trust you will give this recommendation some sober second thought. We can likely save time and tax payer dollars by leaving things just as they are.

Marney & Bill Warder  
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