

MOHAWK ROAD SAFETY REPORT

addressing urgent
pedestrian and
cyclist safety risks



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WHAT IS ACORN?

ACORN Canada, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, founded in 2004, is an independent grassroots organization that fights for social and economic justice for low and moderate income communities. We believe that social and economic justice can best be achieved by building community power for change. ACORN has over 168,000 low-to-moderate-income individual members in 24 neighbourhood chapters in 10 cities across the country. ACORN started organizing in Hamilton in 2017 and has grown to have four neighbourhood chapters: Downtown, Mountain, East End and Stoney Creek.



BACKGROUND

This report highlights safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists along Mohawk Road, particularly at the intersections with Upper James Street and Upper Gage Avenue, areas consistently ranked among the most dangerous in Hamilton for traffic collisions. Mohawk Road is a major arterial road in Hamilton that intersects with several high-volume traffic corridors. Over recent years, it has become a focal point of pedestrian and cyclist safety concerns, particularly in Wards 6, 7, and 8. Mohawk Road is a highly residential corridor, and residents need to feel safe.

In response to growing local advocacy, this report consolidates official city collision data, first-hand community concerns, and media-reported fatalities.

COLLISION DATA & HIGH-RISK INTERSECTIONS

Upper James Street & Mohawk Road ranked

4TH in the city for fatal & injury collisions at an intersection (2018–2022)

City Of Hamilton - 2022 Annual Collision Report

From 2015–2019, the same intersection only ranked

9TH. 2019 Annual Collision Report

Upper Wentworth & Mohawk Road continues to remain **7TH.**

2019 & 2022 Annual Collision Reports

The Upper James corridor intersections from Lotus Ave to the Lincoln Alexander Parkway (which includes Mohawk Road) holds

4 OUT OF 5 of the top spots for total intersection collisions in the city.

2022 Annual Collision Report



PEDESTRIAN & CYCLIST SAFETY CONCERNS

In 2019, there was a fatal accident on Mohawk Rd. E & Upper Gage.

A 68-year-old pedestrian was killed and an 89 year-old pedestrian was severely injured while crossing Mohawk Road East near Upper Gage Avenue. The area lacked mid-block crossings and was known for frequent jaywalking due to long distances between safe crossings.



Insauga Hamllton - “‘Too-relaxed’ Hamilton motorcyclist convicted in fatal collision

“They call it
‘MOHAWK RACEWAY’
because of the speeding.”

“ I have lived on Mohawk Road for 15 years. The traffic on Mohawk Road is horrendous. I'm afraid to cross the road half the time. I walk with a cane and of course, I am a senior. We've had lots of accidents and fatalities in this area. The cars just go speeding by and at night and in the evening the motorcycles just roar past, and of course, the noise just resonates from these vehicles ... something should be done to secure more safety for seniors and other residents in the area in my opinion. It's, at times, very unsafe.”

- Larry Coughlin, Mountain ACORN Member

“ We need speed bumps at **all** schools, children are at risk. ”



“It can be difficult living on Mohawk Road. While you have pretty good access to amenities and public transit, there are a lot of trade-offs with how exposed you are to the traffic from one of the main arteries of the city. The noise is constant, from eight or nine in the morning right until roughly the same time at night. Even with my windows closed, you can still hear the consistent roll of tires down the road, pneumatic surges of buses, and the roars of motorcycles and trucks. I keep my radio on throughout the day just try to cover some of the sound.

While I live only a block away from a grocery store, an easy walk, I usually don't feel comfortable doing it on the weekly basis. Drivers treat anyone who dares to cross a laneway as a nuisance, slowly inching their cars toward you and then barely waiting until you've passed the dotted lines to barrel past you. Often when they are turning onto Mohawk from another road, they're not even looking at you as you're on the cross walk in front of their vehicle - instead they have their heads turned looking to see if another car is coming. It feels like increasingly too many pedestrians have been struck while just trying to go for a simple stroll in our city.” - **Michael, ACORN Member on Ward 6**



WHAT'S NEXT?

ACORN Mountain Chapter has documented the experiences of local residents and collected over 100 petition signatures calling for immediate action. Concerns raised include:

Speeding vehicles along Mohawk Road

Inadequate pedestrian crossings and signage

Unsafe cycling conditions

Lack of traffic calming measures

Many of these signatures came from residents who personally witnessed or experienced near-misses at Mohawk intersections.

To address these pressing safety issues, we recommend the following measures:

Enhanced Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety & Infrastructure

Install additional crosswalks, implement Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) on Mohawk Road, pedestrian islands, and improved signage at key intersections.

Traffic Calming Measures

Install pedestrian countdown timers at traffic lights to let people know how much time they have to cross safely, install enforcement cameras at high-risk intersections to deter dangerous driving, reduce speeding, increased enforcement to speed limits to deter speeding.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Educate drivers and pedestrians about safe crossing practices and the importance of yielding to pedestrians.

Regular Safety Audits

Conduct periodic reviews of traffic patterns and accident data to identify emerging risks and adjust safety measures accordingly.

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