

May 13, 2008

E-mail from Anthony M. Humphreys

Subject: The Issue of Motorists Parking in Bike Lanes

TCAC,

There is another item that I wish to have discussed at the Cycling Advisory Committee meeting, the rampant parking by motorists in bike lanes at certain known locations. I'd like the committee to discuss the options of countermeasures that can be used to discourage parking in these problem locations, and the means to deploy these countermeasures.

Around the city there are certain intersections having business or other attractions that cause motorists to stop in the bike lane. We all know that this is illegal, and that we can call parking enforcement. I have and I do, but on more than one occasion I have been called back when the officer showed up 4 hours later attempting to find the alleged culprit asking for my help. Needless to say I was in other parts of the city by that point, and so was the offender.

For various reasons of staffing and priority, parking in bike lanes are not going to get the attention they deserve. As we can identify specific ongoing and chronic spots that need to be addressed, I'd like the committee to discuss the potential options for counter measures that can be used in these specific locations, and also the options for actually deploying these counter measures in those locations that will discourage motorists from using the bike lane as free parking.

If need be, I'd propose four locations from the west end that have chronic problems of motorists parking in the Bike lane:

2275 Lakeshore Blvd W (Across from Fleeceline Rd, near Park Lawn)
Queens Quay W just west of Bathurst St (both sides)
Runnymede & Bloor (North east side beside the McDonalds)
Runnymede & Annette (potentially all four sides)

I know that there are more, and I'm sure that cyclists would be happy to bring the committee's attention to their own personal favourites. The committee can also find more ideas of locations by reviewing this website, <http://toronto.mybikelane.com/>

Thanks!

Anthony M. Humphreys