

Councillor Adrian Heaps
100 Queen Street West, Suite B25
Toronto, ON M5H2N2

August 3rd, 2010

Re: Petition – Downtown Bicycle Lane Network Completion

Dear Councillor Heaps,

The Toronto Cyclists Union is a member-based citywide advocacy organization representing over 950 Toronto residents. We are writing to publicly support the petition submitted by Mr. Alan Heisey on July 30th, 2010. The petition calls for the completion of a continuous north-south and east-west bicycle network which is currently disjointed. The Toronto Cyclists Union believes the proposed infrastructure installations outlined in the petition are critical steps in providing a more complete cycling network. Currently, the existing bicycle lanes in the downtown end abruptly causing safety concerns between cyclists and motorists. This petition addresses some of the critical gaps in the City's cycling infrastructure. By addressing the points outlined in this petition the City can take important steps towards its goal of completing the Bike Plan and reducing congestion in the downtown core. As such, the Toronto Cyclists Union strongly encourages Councillor Heaps to forward the petition with his signature as Chair of the Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee for its meeting on August 18th, 2010 for consideration.

A bicycle lane on John Street would act as a key connection between the St. George Street/Beverly Street bike lane, which extends between Queen Street and St. Clair Avenue, and the Simcoe Street bicycle lane, which extends between the Waterfront and Front Street. Currently, there is a gap in the bicycle network between Queen Street and Front Street that John Street and Richmond/Adelaide bicycle lanes would remedy, effectively connecting Toronto residents from St. Clair Avenue to the Waterfront.

A bicycle lane connecting the Harbord Street and Wellesley Street bike lanes at Queen's Park Circle is another critical recommendation outlined in this petition. The current configuration at this interchange is extremely dangerous for cyclists moving from Harbord or Wellesley onto Queen's Park Circle and vice-versa. The high speed motorist traffic requires cyclists to dismount in order to cross Queen's Park Circle safely. This is concerning given the amount of cyclists that use the Harbord-Wellesley bike lanes to travel across the University of Toronto campus and those who commute to and from the institution. As such, there needs to be infrastructure provision for cyclists to safely connect between the Harbord-Wellesley bike lanes.

The Toronto Cyclists Union endorses Mr. Heisey's petition and once again encourages Councillor Heaps to support it and present it to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Garcia
Toronto Cyclists Union
Director of Advocacy & Operations
andrea.garcia@bikeunion.to
416-644-7188 ext. 2



Toronto Cyclists Union
@ Centre for Social Innovation
215 Spadina Ave, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5T 2C7

join us at bikeunion.to

