

Councillor Adam Vaughan 魏德方

Toronto City Council
Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20

June 22, 2011

Chair and Members
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen St W
Toronto M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

RE: PW 5.1 Bikeway Network

I am writing to you today in support of the staff recommendations not to build a protected bike lane on John Street between Stephanie and Richmond St.W.

Residents and businesses of Ward 20 are encouraged to see that you and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) is working towards creating a solid network of cycling infrastructure in the downtown, in particular in Ward 20. I assure you that local BIAs, residents associations, cyclists and citizens throughout Trinity-Spadina are ready to consult and participate in designing and building not just better bike lanes, but more bike lanes downtown.

Ward 20 is host to many cyclists every day - cyclists who live, work and commute through our neighbourhoods.

Ward 20 is a community that supports cycling. Residents and businesses recognize that our streets must function both as thoroughfares and destinations, and places for vehicles, bicycles and people. Good streets accommodate multiple uses safely and beautifully. Although there are some concerns about how bike lanes (and sidewalks, parks, bridges and buildings) are designed and configured, this is not opposition. It is part of planning and delivering complete streets and neighbourhoods.

There are compelling reasons to exempt John Street at this time as the rest of the report moves forward.

For the past 15 years, there has been a shared vision to transform John Street into one of the City's most prominent cultural corridors with an improved and expanded emphasis on pedestrians. A key element of this initiative is wider sidewalks for local residents of the neighbourhood. This vision is shared by City staff, the local BIA and area residents.



Councillor Adam Vaughan 魏德方

Toronto City Council
Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20

John Street is a unique street. It links many of the City's most recognizable cultural landmarks. An Environmental Assessment Study (EA) for John Street is underway to identify public realm improvements to realize the area's potential as a beautiful, north-south pedestrian oriented spine with a focus on arts and culture.

The Environmental Assessment to convert John Street between Front to Queen Street into a cultural promenade is nearly complete. Council will soon be deciding the future of this street. This will be the time to talk about the design.

When the street is finished some of Canada's most important cultural institutions, festivals and businesses will have a permanent space on which to stage their events. The AGO, CTV, TIFF, Luminato and beyond will have a place to host outdoor events on a street designed specifically to accommodate cultural festivals.

Local residents will have wider sidewalks, beautiful boulevards and trees punctuated by new public squares and outdoor amenity space – already approved by Council and fully-funded by private sources.

The corridor will begin at the revitalized waterfront along Queens Quay and stretch all the way to Grange Park, another city space that is about to be revitalized. Almost all of the money needed for the project has been secured by harnessing local development in the area and with additional assistance from the BIA.

I am forwarding a number of letters to you from residents associations, businesses, academic institutions, arts, culture, sports and entertainment industry leaders that are supporting the John Street Cultural Corridor plan and the initiative to create a safer bike route on neighbouring streets.

Ward 20 Cycling Network Map

I am also including for your reference a map of cycling routes in Ward 20 the community would like to see completed. This includes Richmond Street, Simcoe Street, Peter Street/Blue Jays Way, Wellington St.W., Portland and Dan Leckie Way, Spadina Avenue and Bloor Street to mention just a few.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Adam Vaughan





TORONTO ARGONAUTS FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

June 21, 2011

Mayor Rob Ford
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

RE: Public Works & Infrastructure – Item PW5.

Dear Mayor Ford and Member of Toronto City Council,

As President of the Toronto Argonauts organization, I am writing in support of the John Street Corridor Improvement Study. As proud hosts of many outdoor celebrations, our fans and supporters would welcome the improvements and modifications as outlined in the Study.

Given this corridor's significance in linking many of the City's recognizable cultural landmarks, the creation of an appealing, north-south pedestrian oriented spine would create an international caliber destination street that celebrates the best the city has to offer. The transformation of John Street could attract visitors 365 days a year. This project will provide new ways to engage audiences and generate millions in commercial activity.

The revitalization of this cultural corridor is estimated, that once completed, will generate over \$36 million in additional property tax revenue for the City over a 10 year period. It is truly an investment and a commitment to building a greater city.

I am asking for your support, and to let you know that our City needs John Street – John Street as a pedestrian-priority cultural corridor, with wider sidewalks, that calm traffic; while providing sidewalk cafes and rebuilding the street as a venue for outdoor events and festivals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Nicholson, FCA
President & CEO

#16.11.11.11.11 | Argonauts

212 King Street West, Suite 501 | Toronto, Ontario | M5H 1K5

Facebook.com/ArgosFootball Twitter.com/TorontoArgos Youtube.com/TorontoArgonauts



212 King Street West, Suite 501 – M5H 1K5

June 22, 2011

Mayor Rob Ford
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

RE: Public Works & Infrastructure – PW5.1

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Toronto City Council,

As Chairman and CEO of the 100th Grey Cup Festival, I am writing in support of the John Street Corridor Improvement Study as it stands. I wish to compliment Council, staff and the Toronto Entertainment District BIA for their visionary work and investment in this important project.

As a proud part of the Toronto Argonauts organization, the Festival team recently launched our plans for the 100th celebration in Toronto in 2012. Coincidentally, John Street is a crucial element of our festival footprint.

Given this corridor's significance in linking many of the City's recognizable cultural landmarks, the creation of an appealing, north-south pedestrian oriented spine would create an international caliber destination street that celebrates the best the city has to offer. The transformation of John Street could attract visitors 365 days a year. This project will provide new ways to engage audiences and generate millions in commercial activity.

I am writing to ask for your support and to let you know that our City needs John Street – John Street as a pedestrian-priority cultural corridor, with wider sidewalks, that calm traffic while providing sidewalk cafes and rebuilding the street as a venue for outdoor events and festivals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Rudge
Chairman & CEO

100thgreycupfestival.ca



MIRVISH PRODUCTIONS

David Mirvish, President

284 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1J2 Tel: 416.593.0351 Fax: 416.593.9221

June 10, 2011

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Toronto City Council,

Many of you know me as the owner and operator of the Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Princess of Wales Theatre, The Canon Theatre and the Panasonic Theatre. Two of which are located in the heart of Toronto's entertainment district. I am also a strong supporter of arts and culture in our city and internationally.

I am writing to you today, as a resident of Toronto, a tax payer, a business operator, a member of the Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area (BIA) and perhaps, most importantly, as an individual who is committed to building a **greater** city with you.

For many years, John Street has been recognized as one of the most prominent cultural corridors in Canada.

From the Art Gallery of Ontario to the Waterfront, the City's landmark cultural institutions are situated along John Street. The list is long and includes the Rogers Centre, CN Tower, CBC, the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), the National Film Board, Much Music, CTV, the Music Gallery, and Grange Park. My own theatres and the National Ballet and OCADU, are immediate neighbours, as are more than 1800 businesses that comprise the Toronto Entertainment District BIA.

Every day of every year, we collectively employ thousands of people while drawing millions of visitors to the area.

A great deal of effort has been invested in the vision to transform John Street as a pedestrian priority cultural corridor. It is my understanding that the new John Street vision will provide wider sidewalks to accommodate thousands of visitors and sidewalk cafes and will be a street that calms cycling and car traffic. It will also provide a venue for outdoor events and festivals. My further understanding of this situation is that it will not remove automotive traffic from the street as John Street is the only access to the underground parking that the city required me to provide for the Princess of Wales Theatre and an inconsistent use of that lot will discourage people from attending the theatre. It is important that cars are able to access this lot

THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE

260 King Street West



244 Victoria Street

THE PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE

300 King Street West

by turning left or right from King Street and travel south from Queen Street to access the lot. However, if the street is closed from time to time with a mindful respect for the timetable of the theatre, I am supportive of this action.

I have a tenant at the corner of King and John, Tim Hortons who receives a truck delivery every day on John street and some thought must be given as to how to accommodate this business. Is it possible for that truck to sit at Pearl Street, for example? Or King Street? In addition to this, TIFF now has the entrance to its residential component on John Street and I expect that has been taken into consideration as to how to accommodate this group of people. With consideration of the above, I do believe that **our city needs John Street as an acknowledged cultural corridor** and I very much like the idea of blending the street without curbs into a larger patio and sidewalk area.

I have recently supported our BIA in the temporary summer removal of one lane of traffic on the south side of King Street and we have agreed to support The Jazz Festival to close the entire King Street for a performance by Aretha Franklin for the 26th of June in David Pecaut. Fortunately both of our theatres are closed on that night.

I realize there are other discussions on the Council agenda that contemplate dedicated bike lanes on John Street. I encourage you to consider the other local, continuous, nearby streets such as Peter or Simcoe Streets for a protected bike route. This is consistent with what has been the City's Bike Plan for several years as well as the investments and work our BIA members have undertaken.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Mirvish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Mirvish" clearly distinguishable.

David Mirvish

Mirvish Productions



Mayor Rob Ford & Members of City Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 13, 2011

RE: TIFF's support of the new John Street Cultural Corridor

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of TIFF, please accept this letter of support for the new John Street Cultural Corridor transformation project.

As one of Toronto's signature events, the Toronto International Film Festival finally has a year-round home. Our new filmhouse, TIFF Bell Lightbox, offers a new hub of creativity for filmmakers, a new tourism attraction for visitors, and an accessible meeting place for film-lovers of all ages – right at King & John.

We are thrilled to find ourselves in the heart of the Entertainment District, and hope that you will see the value in supporting a shared vision to transform John Street as one of the City's most prominent cultural corridors.

John Street is significant in linking many of the City's recognizable cultural landmarks. From the Waterfront to Dundas Street West, John Street is home to The Rogers Centre, CN Tower, CBC, David Pecaut Square, Toronto International Film Festival, National Film Board, Much Music, CTV, Music Gallery, Grange Park and the Art Gallery of Ontario. John Street is also the spine for the Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area (BIA) and its 1,800 member businesses that include restaurants, theatres, offices, and shops that employ thousands of people while drawing millions of visits to the area annually.

An Environmental Assessment Study (EA) for John Street is underway to identify public realm improvements to realize the areas' potential as an appealing, north-south pedestrian oriented spine and arts and culture focused promenade. A key objective is to create an international-calibre destination street that celebrates the best the city has to offer, attracts even more visitors, while generating millions in commercial activity and revitalizing areas in need.

It is estimated that, once complete, this project will generate over \$36 million in additional property tax revenue for the City over a 10 year period.

TIFF Bell Lightbox | Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, Toronto ON Canada M5V 3X5 | T 416-599-TIFF (8433) or 1-888-599-TIFF (8433) | tiff.net

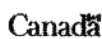
Lead Sponsor



Major Sponsors



Major Supporters





The BIA has sponsored and invested more than \$600,000 in the planning leading up to and including the EA and over \$10 million in funding from private developers has already been committed to the City of Toronto for the transformation of John Street.

TIFF is at the start of an exciting period in our history – a new home, a new era, a new TIFF.

The transformation of John Street will be essential as we build ourselves into a true cultural institution that attracts visitors 365 days a year. This project will also give us new ways to engage with audiences with free outdoor programming and street activity.

I am writing to ask for your support and to let you know **our City needs John Street** - John Street as a pedestrian-priority cultural corridor, with wider sidewalks, that calm cycling and car traffic while providing sidewalk cafes and rebuilding the street as a venue for outdoor events and festivals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

maxine bailey
Vice-President, Advancement

CC: Janice Solomon, ED BIA

TIFF Bell Lightbox | Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, Toronto ON Canada M5V 3X5 | T 416-599-TIFF (8433) or 1-888-599-TIFF (8433) | tiff.net

Lead Sponsor



Major Sponsors



Major Supporters



June 14, 2011

Mayor Rob Ford
Toronto City Hall
2nd Floor
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Toronto City Council,

Many of you may know me as the Executive Chairman & CEO of St. Joseph Communications. As a strong support of arts and culture in our city and internationally, I am also the co-founder and chair of Luminato, Toronto's **Festival of Arts and Creativity**, which holds many of its events in locations and venues in the heart of Toronto's entertainment district.

As a resident of Toronto, a tax payer, a business operator, an employer, and a significant contributor to our local economy, I am committed to building a **greater** city with you.

For the past 15 years, there has been a shared vision to transform John Street as one of the City's most prominent cultural corridors. From the Waterfront to Dundas St West, John Street is home to The Rogers Centre, CN Tower, CBC, David Pecaut Square, Toronto International Film Festival, National Film Board, Much Music, CTV, Music Gallery, Grange Park and the Art Gallery of Ontario. John Street is also the spine for the Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area (BIA) and its 1,800 member businesses that include restaurants, theatres, offices, and shops that employ thousands of people while drawing millions of visits to the area annually.

John Street is significant in linking many of the City's recognizable cultural landmarks. An Environmental Assessment Study (EA) for John Street is underway to identify public realm improvements to realize the areas' potential as an appealing, north-south pedestrian oriented spine and arts and culture focussed promenade. A key objective is to create an international calibre destination street that celebrates the best the city has to offer, attracts even more visitors, while generating millions in commercial activity and revitalizing areas in need. It is estimated that once complete this project will generate over \$36 million in additional property tax revenue for the City over a 10 year period.

The BIA has sponsored and invested more than \$600,000 in the planning leading up to and including the EA and over \$10 million in funding from private developers has been committed to the City of Toronto for the transformation of John Street.

I am writing to ask for your support and, to let you know **our City needs John Street** - John Street as a pedestrian-priority cultural corridor, with wider sidewalks, that calm cycling and car traffic while providing sidewalk cafes and rebuilding the street as a venue for outdoor events and festivals.

I realize there are discussions on the Council agenda that contemplate barricaded dedicated bike lanes on John Street. I encourage you to consider other local, continuous, nearby streets such as Peter or Simcoe Streets for a protected bike route. This is consistent with what has been in the City's Bike Plan for several years as well as the investments and work the local community has undertaken.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tony Gagliano
Executive Chairman & CEO
905-66-3111, ext 238

Solutions that matter



Art Gallery of Ontario
Musée des beaux-arts de l'Ontario
Matthew Teitelbaum Michael and Sonja Koerner Director, and CEO

June 16, 2011

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Toronto City Council:

The Art Gallery of Ontario is proud to be Toronto's premier art museum, attracting more than 600,000 visitors annually. We are committed to building Toronto as an even greater city, with internationally celebrated landmark areas and neighbourhoods.



There is a shared vision to transform John Street as one of the City's most prominent cultural corridors, from the waterfront right up to Grange Park. This is a very important project for the AGO, as it reinforces our neighbourhood as an arts destination. We are proud to be part of the John Street cultural district, which links the AGO and Grange Park with the Rogers Centre, CN Tower, CBC, David Pecaut Square, Toronto International Film Festival, National Film Board, Much Music, CTV, Music Gallery and Luminato. In conjunction with the Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area (BIA) and its 1,800 member businesses that include restaurants, theatres, offices and shops, the John Street district draws millions of visits to the area annually and employs thousands of people.

An Environmental Assessment Study (EA) for John Street is underway to identify public realm improvements to realize the areas' potential as an appealing, north-south pedestrian oriented spine and arts and culture-focused promenade. A key objective is to create an international calibre destination street that celebrates the best the city has to offer, attracts even more visitors, while generating millions in commercial activity and revitalizing areas in need. It is estimated that once complete this project will generate over \$36 million in additional property tax revenue for the City over a 10 year period.

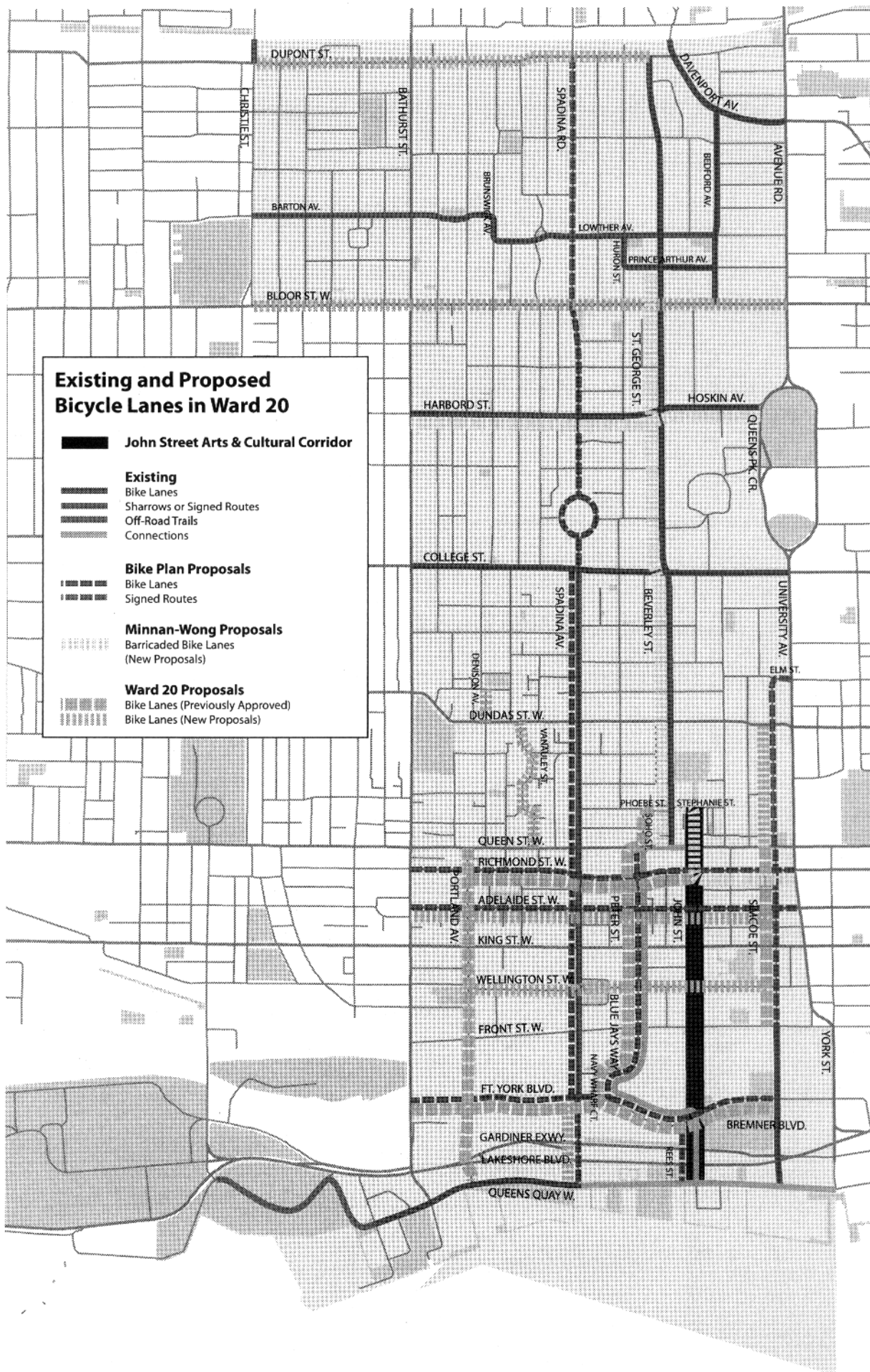
The BIA has sponsored and invested more than \$600,000 in the planning leading up to and including the EA and over \$10 million in funding from private developers has been committed to the City of Toronto for the transformation of John Street.

I am writing to express my support for the project and to urge you to support it as well. The City will derive many benefits from John Street as a pedestrian-priority cultural corridor, with wider sidewalks that calm cycling and car traffic while providing sidewalk cafes and rebuilding the street as a venue for outdoor events and festivals.

We want Torontonians and visitors to our city to linger, explore and discover the many cultural offerings of John Street. For this reason, we encourage Council to consider maintaining John Street as a shared area for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, instead of created barricaded dedicated bike lanes. We believe that other local, continuous streets such as Peter or Simcoe Streets could be used for a protected bike route. This is consistent with what has been in the City's Bike Plan for several years as well as the investments and work the local community has undertaken.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Teitelbaum", with a horizontal line underneath.



62 Beverley Street
Toronto, ON
M5T 1X9

June 20, 2011

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Bikeway Network – 2011 Update

I am writing on behalf of the Grange Community Association whose boundaries are: College, University, Queen and Spadina.

Grange residents are long-time supporters of increased bicycle use in the City and we were *actively* involved with the introduction of the bike lane on St. George and Beverley Streets. Our members have followed the current debates about bike lanes very closely and this matter has been discussed at our board meetings.

Beverley and St. George Streets

Our comments are focussed upon St. George, Beverley and John Streets. We have reviewed the staff report and are in agreement with their conclusions. The report states:

"Given the positive outcome of the St. George Street revitalization, Transportation Services recommends that separated bicycle lanes not be considered on Beverley and St. George Streets because they are already comfortable streets for cycling." (p.37)

With respect to Beverly Street, the staff report also addressed the accommodation of uni-directional bicycle lanes, and noted that this

"would require the removal of left turn lanes and all of the on-street parking. Beverley Street is a residential street and the residents rely on the on-street parking. Transportation Services recommends that separated lanes not be considered for Beverley Street." (p.38)

In discussions with area residents, the GCA found that residents were also concerned about Wheeltrans access across curbed bike lanes, as well as potential for problems with waste management, snow removal and street cleaning.

John Street

With respect to the route, GCA members are supportive of the efforts to pedestrianise John Street and believe that *a north-south route should utilize Peter and Simcoe Streets.*

Richmond and Adelaide Streets

Finally due to the increasing residential nature of Richmond and Adelaide Streets, it is our view that the consideration of bike lanes on these two streets should be undertaken *within the context of the introduction of two-way traffic on both of these streets.* The situation with MMVA Awards this past weekend demonstrates the need for Adelaide to become two-way, given the frequency of activities undertaken at 299 Queen Street which often involves removing lanes of traffic on Richmond as well as Duncan and Simcoe Streets.

Yours truly,



Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Honorary President
Grange Community Association

Email: ceta_r@yahoo.ca



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT
CAMPUS & FACILITIES PLANNING

June 21, 2011

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Re: Proposed Bike Network

Dear Committee Members,

As Co-Chair of the City of Toronto-University of Toronto Liaison Committee I am writing on the behalf of the Committee to express concern about the proposal for separate bike lanes downtown. Of particular concern are the lanes proposed for Harbord-Hoskin and Beverley-St. George as modifications and street improvements were undertaken to these streets resulting from comprehensive and detailed community discussions.

The Liaison Committee supports and encourages the use of bicycles, however, implementation of interventions should be discussed with community groups and institutions to ensure all resident and institutional needs and requirements are met. Comprehensive consultations must occur with technical information as changes will affect all manner of thoroughfare: pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular.

We request deferral of the proposal until thorough and complete consultation can occur.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sisam
Co-Chair Liaison Committee
Assistant Vice-President, Campus & Facilities Planning
University of Toronto

Cc: Liaison Committee