

Economic Development Committee - ED30.7 - Support for Open Streets

From: "Kristin Schwartz" <kschwartz@culturelink.ca>
To: "'Councillor Ana Bailao'" <councillor_bailao@toronto.ca>, "'Councillor S..."
Date: 04/15/2014 2:37 PM
Subject: ED30.7 - Support for Open Streets
CC: <info@cycleto.ca>

Greetings to members of the Economic Development Committee:

I am writing to request that you support the proposal to establish Open Streets in Toronto this summer, based on my experience with coordinating programs which engage newcomers and high school students in cycling and other forms of healthy, physical activity. Many of our participants, past and present, have recounted stories of taking part in various Open Streets initiatives in cities around the world. They have talked about how such events are amazing opportunities for residents to get outside and to use active transportation in their daily lives. Such initiatives also encourage people to patronize local businesses, and attract tourists.

We are hoping that participants in this summer's "Bike Host" – a program we offer to newcomer adults – will be able to organize and offer some kind of family-friendly activity as part of Open Streets, as a way to connect with their new city and participate in civic life. I expect that many programs, agencies, and neighbourhood groups will do the same and that Open Streets will galvanize volunteer efforts on large scale.

Please consider these factors as you make your decision at your upcoming committee meeting.

Sincerely,

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The Bike to School Project is a collaborative initiative of CultureLink Settlement Services, Cycle Toronto, Evergreen, and the Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank.