



September 8, 2017

Re: Dockless bike sharing

Dear Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Members,

We have seen growing interest and support for cycling in Toronto in recent years. As a city we have made great investments in cycling infrastructure, including our bike sharing system. Bike sharing has many benefits —without having to worry about theft, cost, and availability, riders can use bikes as a complement to their transit. According to Dropbike, the bike sharing industry is estimated to be worth \$5.9 billion by 2020.

Unfortunately, in a City as dense as Toronto, we are running out of sites big enough to accommodate the large docking systems currently required by Bike Share Toronto's system. The City will soon need to look for alternative methods if we want to continue to expand the system.

The technology for bike sharing is quickly evolving, with companies like Dropbike are creating bikes with locks that do not require large docks. This technology could allow for faster expansion of bike sharing across the city without the need for costly docking stations that can be difficult to find sites for. In its 8 weeks of running 3 pilots, Dropbike has had +5000 rides and +1400 users.

I therefore recommend that:

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee request the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with Director, Environment and Energy and the Toronto Parking Authority report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on dockless bike sharing technology in Toronto in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Sincerely,

Mike Layton
City Councillor
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina