



October 11, 2017

To the members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

Earth Day Canada was founded in 1990. We are a national charity that inspires and supports people across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities. Our new program, Earth PLAY provides innovative programs, resources and tools for parents, neighbourhoods, schools, educators and policy-makers to bring outdoor play back into the day-to-day lives of children and youth at home, at school and in our communities.

Earth Day Canada fully supports retaining the bicycle lanes on Bloor Street and supports expanding the separated bike lane network across Toronto. We are strong advocates of getting people outdoors and as avid cyclists - in fact, many of our staff use the lanes to get to work - and we believe that providing safe mobility and an intricate network of bicycle infrastructure creates a child-friendly and sustainable city. For children and youth, safe bicycle lanes encourages independence, a connection to their local neighbourhood, and an opportunity for physical exercise. A strong bicycle network also encourages people to move from their cars to bicycles which has a direct beneficial impact on our air quality.

This is a critical juncture in the future of our city and it begs the question... *What kind of city do we want to build?* Do we want to reverse forward thinking initiatives? Or do we want to build a city of the future that accommodates all people and not just cars? Do we want to integrate cycling mobility into urban planning so kids can safely bike to school, home, or to their local community centre? Yes, we do. It is exactly this type of city building and infrastructure that makes widespread bike use possible. Let's build a city that promotes children's independence, resiliency, and overall well being.

Thank you,  
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