



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONAL, AND  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

October 16, 2017

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express the support of the University of Toronto for making permanent the Bloor Bike Lanes Pilot Project.

The University of Toronto is very fortunate to have its St. George Campus situated in the urban setting of downtown Toronto. I firmly believe that this is a factor that contributes to one of our strengths as an institution, as our location is an attraction for the best and brightest students, faculty, and staff from around the world. Our location means that cycling is a preferred method of transit for thousands who study, research, work or live at University of Toronto. Therefore, cycling infrastructure serves a crucial role for the St. George campus. The addition of bike lanes on Bloor has enhanced the cycling network that services the campus.

It should be noted that there have been a few challenges for how the bike lanes function in front of the Woodsworth College Residence. University staff have been in conversation with the City of Toronto on these issues, and I am confident that we will be able to find solutions that work for residents, cyclists, and pedestrians, and which increases the safety of the lanes along that stretch of Bloor.

At the University of Toronto, we understand that the bike lanes are about more than just the immediate tangible impacts for our institution. We understand that the bike lanes are part of a broader conversation about understanding how we as residents move around the City. There is no doubt that we need to build a sustainable transportation system, particularly as Toronto continues to urbanize and the downtown core increases in population density in the coming years.

This sustainable system does not occur by accident or happenstance. Conscious decisions have to be made in order to support the infrastructure that creates a system that works for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and local businesses. The University of Toronto agrees that the Bloor Street bike lanes contribute to a more sustainable, safe, and livable built environment for Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Thomson'.

Andrew Thomson  
Chief of Government Relations

c: Councillor Cressy