



October 16, 2017

Nancy Martins
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC),

RE: PW24.9 (Bloor Street West Bike Lane Pilot Project Evaluation)

We are Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustees representing Bloor Street from the Humber River to Avenue Road. We would like to express our support for making the Bloor bike lanes permanent, as well as extended east and west.

The results unveiled on Wednesday, October 11 demonstrated the Bloor bike lanes have improved safety for all road users including people who walk, bike, or drive. This improved safety played a role in cycling volumes increasing over 50% to 5220 cyclists per day with Bells on Bloor counts measuring more than 6000 cyclists per day. Having protected bike lanes on streets such as Bloor encourages students and teachers to bike to school more often, which provides the added benefit of reducing childhood obesity. Students and teachers have expressed support for keeping the Bloor bike lanes to the media on two occasions; those being on Thursday, June 1 and on Thursday, October 12.

Keeping the Bloor bike lanes is consistent with the TDSB's Charter for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation, which cites benefits of active transportation such as improved mental and physical health, preparedness to learn and work, and connection to communities. The TDSB has taken other measures to improve road safety including unanimous support for creating a road safety task force in June and supporting the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation's "Guide to Safer Streets Near Schools" last year. The Bloor bike lanes also fit in with Toronto's Vision Zero road safety plan, which recently unveiled new school safety zones aiming to improve safety for school children and give parents a peace of mind.

Given the safety benefits of the Bloor bike lanes and their alignment with TDSB active transportation actions, we urge that PWIC support keeping the Bloor bike lanes. We also recommend extending the Bloor bike lanes west as soon as possible to provide a safe route for students to get to Bloor Collegiate Institute. We thank you for considering our input and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Robin Pilkey, TDSB Trustee, Ward 7 Parkdale-High Park
Marit Stiles, TDSB Trustee, Ward 9 Davenport
Ausma Malik, TDSB Trustee, Ward 10 Trinity-Spadina