

October 17, 2017

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
Nancy Martins
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Jaye Robinson (Chair) and members of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee:

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

On behalf of Cycle Toronto's Ward 19 and 20 advocacy groups, which includes the membership of over 100 people living in these wards who ride bikes, **we fully support the staff recommendation to make the Bloor bike lane pilot project, from Shaw Street to Avenue Road, a permanent installation.** We also support extending the bike lanes west and east to improve city-wide cycling connections. Our main arguments in favour of the lanes revolve around safety, user experience, and traffic.

1. SAFETY

First and foremost, Torontonians have a right to use the city's transportation network safely, regardless of their choice of mode. The City of Toronto has endorsed the Vision Zero philosophy, which states that no loss of life is acceptable on our streets. The protected bike lanes on Bloor are a remarkable example of Vision Zero principles put into practice, leading to over 50% reductions in all types of motor vehicle conflicts in just one year.

2. USER EXPERIENCE

The best way to get people to ride bikes more is to make cycling a pleasant, low-stress experience, and the Bloor bike lanes are evidence of this. Through the winter months, the lanes were routinely plowed. The Toronto Police have vigilantly enforced illegal parking in the lanes, and the protected design means that people riding bikes have to worry less about vehicle conflicts. As a result of the bike lanes, according to the City's own data, the majority of all road users on Bloor now feel safer, including drivers.

3. TRAFFIC

Bike lanes are an incredibly efficient way of moving traffic on our roads. The reconfiguration of the street has increased the street's overall traffic capacity: bicycle volumes have grown 49% in just one year, and cyclists on Bloor have consistently travelled without congestion delays, leaving significant room for more traffic throughput on this street.

In summary, **we urge PWIC and Council to vote to make these lanes permanent, and to continue their expansion westward and eastward.** We recommend the City make continued improvements to the design of the lanes to make them work for all users. We also encourage the City to continue its efforts in keeping the lanes clear of snow and illegally-parked cars, which drastically improves the user experience for people riding bikes on Bloor.

While many projects in isolation have shown great success, the real growth in cycling can be attributed to the expansion of the cycling network as a whole. Every time the city adds new bike lanes, the cycling network grows, and travelling by bicycle becomes a safe, convenient option for more people.

Sincerely,

Matt Pinder and Laura Dean (Ward 20 Captains)

Felix Whitton and Carolyn Young (Ward 19 Captains)



416 644 7188
info@cycleto.ca
www.cycleto.ca

Cycle Toronto
at Centre for Social Innovation
215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 149
Toronto, ON, M5T 2C7