

Public Works Infrastructure Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West, 22nd Floor, East Tower
Toronto Ontario M5H 2N2

October 18, 2017

Re: Bloor Bike Lanes
Shaw Street to Avenue Road

From: Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization

The Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization (HSRO) is located in the north west corner of the University of Toronto campus. Its borders are Bloor St. to Harbord St. and Spadina Avenue to St. George St.

The HSRO, along with other neighbouring RA's, enthusiastically supports permanent bike lanes on Bloor St. in particular, and a greater network of bike lanes throughout the city.

The demographics of the HSRO has changed dramatically over the last number of years. While there remains a large minority of long term residents, the area is now comprised of new University faculty members with young families many of whom are cyclists, including their children.

The new comers to our city come from all parts of the world, many from countries with great bike lane infrastructure. The general feeling amongst these individuals is that, while Toronto is a progressive city in many ways, it falls woefully short in its bike lane infrastructure. Many feel unsafe in cycling in Toronto compared to their home countries.

We know that feelings and perceptions are insufficient reasons for spending public money on major projects. Evidenced based decision making is now the mantra of all levels of governments in planning for and spending on infrastructure of all kinds. Well the evidence is now in as provided by the city staff report and the report conducted by the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation report.

The reports conclude that the Bloor St. pilot bike lane project has been an enormous success. Some key findings include: cycling volumes have increased; conflicts among motorists, cyclists and pedestrians have decreased; customer spending in the area surveyed has increased; travel times during peak periods has increased by only 2- 4 minutes on Bloor St. From Bay St to Ossngtton St. Most importantly, all road users

report feeling safer.

Streets, roads and sidewalks are public spaces. We all use them and pay for them through our taxes. We should all be and feel safe in using them. It's long past the time the the city designs roads primarily for moving vehicle traffic in the quickest most efficient way in the absence of providing for the safety and security of all its citizens, including cyclists and pedestrians. Let's move beyond the 1950s thinking of road design and move into the 21st century with a comprehensive network of bike lanes, more accomodating sidewalks and more public transit options.

We urge the committee to support permanent bike lanes on Bloor St. and for council to follow suit.

Andrew Vice
Vice-President
Huron Sussex Residents' Organization