



Norm Di Pasquale, Ward 9 TCDSB Trustee



May 27, 2020

Re: CC21.20 Cycling Network Plan Installations: Bloor West Bikeway Extension & ActiveTO Projects

Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

I am writing to urge City Council to approve this report, for the students of Toronto.

Due to Covid-19 Physical Distancing requirements, our school buses will have to run at 1/6th of their capacity. That means a school bus with a regular capacity of 72 can now only handle 12 students. This, plus the potential reduction in TTC service represents a major challenge in getting our students to school once they reopen.

To address this transportation issue, we must encourage our students to use active transportation. The bike lanes recommended in this report will have an extremely positive impact on encouraging active transportation, as students and parents must feel safe before they will consider cycling to school. Adding safe bike lanes to the major thoroughfares as proposed in this report will send a clear signal to families that it is safe and encouraged to ride your bike to school and to work, and will result in many more families leveraging active transportation.

To take these proposed bike lanes a step further to help our school families, I propose that city council consider studying current school bus routes and adding safe cycling infrastructure to them. Families will require alternatives to school bus transport this fall should physical distancing measures remain in place.

I would like to congratulate all City of Toronto Stakeholders who played a part in putting together this bold Toronto vision for active transport. I strongly urge City Council to support it.

Thanks and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "NDP".