

May 26, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

Danforth Residents' Association

Mayor John Tory and All Toronto City Councillors Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

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

We were very disappointed in our Councillor Paula Fletcher in the lack of communication and foresight to include the Danforth Residents Association in the planning of this project - we understand today that planning has already occurred and is complete. Up until March we, the Danforth Association, have been a part of the 2-YEAR planning study of Danforth Avenue and deemed part of the Advisory Committee however we were not held to the same standard for this project that was by all accounts part of the 2-YEAR study.

It is unfortunate that we had to hear about this project like the rest of Toronto, through the news media. It was only when we reached out to our Councillor, Paula Fletcher, we were greeted with a generic press release from her associate no less.

During our meeting with the public for the 2-YEAR planning study it became obvious to us that the issue of bike lanes was going to be a very divisive matter in our neighbourhood. We as residents live on the Danforth Avenue and want our neighbourhood to continue to thrive. We are respectful of everyone's opinion on bike lanes however, this short notice did not allow us the opportunity to inform our residents, in order to have a conversation, to advise them or to ensure they had their voice heard, via a response to this project.

It is obvious, as we see via the communication from the BIA's, there is a question on timing here and that businesses who are already struggling to keep their businesses afloat were not consulted. We see our businesses as vital to our vibrant community and what we see is them struggling at the moment. What we also have seen in our community is 5 of them have shuttered their doors.

We also see our residents as vital and we are disheartened to find out that \$4 MILLION +/- dollars (we cannot confirm this number) is being set aside for adding in bike lanes. Our residents are laid off, our students do not have laptops/internet to participate in online learning and we question whether the City has put thought into how to best spend resources in a time of economic insecurity for its residents.

During our 2-YEAR Danforth Study, we talked a lot about the need to have all aspects working harmoniously – that is, retail, residents and development. We do not see the way that this has unfolded as harmonious.

We are truly disappointed in how the City and Councillors decided to bypass and show little respect to it's Advisory Committee - the Residents Association, the BIAs along Danforth Avenue.

We ask you to delay this project until such time as the Advisory Committee can be consulted and can provide input on such a divisive issue.

The Danforth Residents Association.
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