

May 27, 2020

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of #DestinationDanforth, the proposal to support small business and our community along the Danforth. As a small business owner, I've been personally and professionally devastated by COVID-19. The Workaround, my 13,000 sq ft coworking space with childcare closed on Friday March 13, and to-date we still do not have rent relief, a moratorium on commercial evictions or any idea when we will reopen. I've gone through the motions of shock, denial, depression, sadness and now acceptance - not only acceptance, but hope.

It is my hope that when we are able to return to a new reality, that Danforth businesses will thrive. I know that success is possible with specific, targeted actions from the City of Toronto to support our local community to move freely, without relying on cars or public transit to get around to their local shops, and to enjoy a revitalized streetscape that welcomes us back together after this months-long lockdown.

I couldn't agree more with the proposal that creates more alternative ways to bring people back to the Danforth, encouraging walking and safe cycling. I also like that with this proposal and pilot, there will be the same number of full-time driving lanes (one in each direction) as currently exist on the Danforth, so that those who need to use a car to get around our community still can without significant traffic implications. I live at Pape and Danforth and The Workaround is located at Woodbine and Danforth. With two small children under six years old, I too am concerned about taking transit to work once we reopen. I know members of The Workaround have the same anxieties, and that many will welcome the ability to safely cycle along our main thoroughfare. Many members already park their bikes inside The Workaround, lauding the Woodbine bike lanes. This proposal connects the dots so more community members can cycle with their children. Being able to safely cycle from Pape to Woodbine along Danforth would make it easy for me to stay healthy and easily get to work – whether I'm preparing to reopen and once we do. It will do wonders for my own mental health.

The Workaround primarily serves working parents who have young children. The uncertainty around summer camps and daycares remains, and as a business owner I'm nervous about what business will look like in the short and medium term. It's imperative that business owners like me stay hopeful about our future, by welcoming businesses that can open with ample patio space, knowing it will bring people outside, keeping the Danforth lively and a place our local community continues to support in droves.

I emphatically support the proposal by Councillors' Bradford and Fletcher to bring hope and success to the Danforth as we recover from the harmful economic effects of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Amanda Munday
Founder & CEO, The Workaround