



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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January 8, 2021

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

RE: IE19.12 ActiveTO and Accessibility

Cycle Toronto supports the integration of accessibility considerations in bikeway designs. Active transportation infrastructure has the potential to make road networks safer, more equitable, and more accessible for everyone.

We have been encouraged by the progress in recent bike lane installations by Transportation Staff, and applaud the many design features to improve accessibility. Through adding raised ramps for loading and unloading passengers on the Danforth Avenue, Bloor Street West, and University Avenue bike lanes, tactile strips at bus stops, delivery zones, and more - it is clear that these are not just 'cycling' projects, but opportunities for 'Complete Streets' that serve all road users.

Although cycling is sometimes perceived as being only for young, able-bodied persons, bicycle lanes can be constructed in ways that support disabled cyclists, who may use adaptive cycles or powered wheelchairs.¹ Cycle Toronto supports active mobility and e-mobility devices that allow people to move about safely, including mobility devices such as wheelchairs, pedal assist e-bikes including cargo bikes, and other low-speed wheeled devices under 25 km/h, and encourage their use in bicycle lanes and cycle tracks.² Cycle Toronto welcomes people of all abilities to utilize mobility devices and bicycles, and supports efforts to make cycling infrastructure more accessible to disabled active transportation users.³

¹ Laura Laker, "[A rolling walking stick: why do so many disabled people cycle in Cambridge?](#)," *The Guardian*, January 2, 2018, accessed January 8, 2021.

² "[Active and e-mobility](#)," *Cycle Toronto*.

³ For more information on how to make cycling more accessible, see [A Guide to Inclusive Cycling](#), 4th ed., Wheels for Wellbeing, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Longfield', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Longfield
Interim Executive Director
Cycle Toronto

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported non-profit organization working to make Toronto a safer, healthier, and more vibrant cycling city for all.

