

PW 5.1. 90



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

2011 JUL 11 A 7:45

July 10 2011

Mayor Rob Ford
c/o Marilyn Toft
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: City Council July 12-13 2011: PW5.1 Bikeway Network - 2011 Update

Dear Mayor Ford and Councillors:

I provide this correspondence on behalf of Cycle 26, a community cycling group in Ward 26 since 2008. We previously submitted a letter (attached) and deputed on this matter to the June 23 meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC).

We are very disappointed with the PWIC decision to support elimination of two existing bike lanes as recommended in the staff report, and urge Council to reverse this. However the Committee's decision to eliminate the existing bike lanes on Jarvis without prior notice, without staff recommendation, without public consultation, and without the support of the local councillor is dictatorial, arbitrary, and unbecoming of the City of Toronto. We would urge Council to reconsider.

We would remind you that bicycles are defined as vehicles in the Highway Traffic Act and deserve to be given respect. If you truly value the importance of mobility for all vehicles (rather than cars only) you will reconsider eliminating the Pharmacy, Birchmount, and Jarvis bike lanes.

Finally, we are concerned that this action puts Toronto further behind our competitors for tourism and commerce, such as New York, Montreal and Ottawa who are rapidly moving ahead with cycle friendly policies and plans.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel for
Cycle 26

¹ On this very day it is reported that Ottawa has opened a new downtown bike lane "Bicycle lanes for the rest of us - Casual riders no longer need to fear for their lives on Laurier Avenue" <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/travel/Bicycle+lanes+rest/5079064/story.html>