

Councillor Mike Layton  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**RE: BIXI Toronto Expansion**

Dear Councillor Layton,

The Toronto Cyclists Union is a member-based cycling advocacy organization representing 1,130 Toronto residents. I am writing to express our interest in seeing the BIXI Toronto public bike system expand to serve more people within a larger area. In the BIXI program's first month in Toronto, 64,500 total trips were recorded, of which 28,830 were taken in the last week of May alone. The demand for BIXI bikes is significant.

Toronto launched the BIXI public bike system with 1,000 bicycles in a condensed services area within the downtown core. Other cities launched their public bike systems on a much wider scale. For example, Paris, France launched with 20,000 bicycles distributed across the entire city. Montreal launched with 3,000 bicycles in 2009 and quickly expanded to 5,000 bicycles in the same year. Toronto's system originally called for 3,000 bicycles distributed between Dupont Street to the north, Lake Ontario to the south, Broadview Avenue to the east and High Park to the west. Given the frequency of use and high level of ridership, the Toronto Cyclists Union has identified a need to explore an expansion plan for BIXI Toronto.

Currently, it is unclear whether jurisdiction and funding of the program's expansion lies within the City of Toronto or the Public Bike System Company. **To gain clarity on the process for expanding BIXI Toronto, the Toronto Cyclists Union requests that city staff, through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, be directed to explore and formulate a framework for the program's expansion.** In particular, the following questions should be addressed:

1. What party is responsible for approving the expansion of BIXI Toronto?
2. What party is responsible for securing funding for the expansion of BIXI Toronto?
3. What are the ridership and revenue targets necessary to warrant an expansion?

The development of a clear framework for expanding the BIXI Toronto public bike system is essential for servicing a wider geographic area and a greater number of Torontonians. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



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