

PW 15.2.14



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May 16, 2011

Denzil Minnan-Wong,
Chair, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
c/o Committee Clerk, 10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

By email: pwic@toronto.ca

RE: PW 15.2 Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong and members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Cycle 26, a cycling and pedestrian advocacy organization in Ward 26, in support of the staff report on Bikeway Trails implementation.

This report represents an extremely comprehensive assessment of the existing, and proposal for short and medium term Bikeway development projects that we agree will provide a sound basis for setting capital priorities over the next 10 years. We have just a couple of comments and suggestions on specifics in the report.

We are disappointed that the Redway Road to Bayview bikeway is not recommended for implementation in the proposed plan. The report cites two reasons for this recommendation: the lands at the north being too close to the Don Branch rail corridor; and the challenging geography at the south end. It also says that the planned shoulder bikeway on Bayview from Pottery Road to Moore Avenue will provide an alternate route serving much of the same destinations as the suggested Redway-Bayview connection. On the latter point we would disagree; Bayview primarily connects with North Toronto and North York (west of the Don); the Redway Road to Bayview link would have met with Overlea and via Don Mills Road connected with North York (east of the Don). Few cyclists on Bayview would navigate east along Moore Avenue and Southvale over to Overlea and Don Mills Road; most use the Leaside bridge and Broadview (which involves two crossings of the Don River). The Redway extension would have "cut the corner off" for riders from the Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park and Don Mills areas. We urge that the Redway alignment continue to be given serious consideration.

Secondly, we suggest that in view of the need to augment and accelerate the Bikeways program the city might make a formal request to the Ontario government and Metrolinx that follow through on their commitment to cycling infrastructure and allocate funds to

implementation of the City of Toronto Bikeways Plan. In addition, it is especially important for the City to be seen by the province as supportive of cycling investment at this time.

Yours truly

Geoff Kettel and Louis Fliss
For Cycle 26

c.c. Councillor John Parker
Councillor Mary Fragedakis
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Kathleen Wynne, MPP Don Valley West
Andrea Garcia, Advocacy Director, Cycle Toronto
Ron Kluger, Cycle 25
Tom Flaherty, 29 Bikes