

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee - PW24.7 Extending the Bay Street Bicycle Lane

From: Gee Chung / GYRA <gcmbm@sympatico.ca>
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Date: 6/18/2013 4:57 PM
Subject: PW24.7 Extending the Bay Street Bicycle Lane
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GYRA

THE GREATER YORKVILLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

To: Public Works & Infrastructure Committee

GYRA represents 30 residential buildings in the Yorkville area, home to some 4,500 Torontonians. We reacted with shock and dismay yesterday when we learned of the recommendation to prohibit northbound and southbound left turns at the Bay & Bloor intersection, to facilitate new bicycle lanes from Cumberland Street to 30 metres south of Bloor Street West.

The staff report states the extension of the Bikeway Network was approved by the community. I attended the November 2012 public consultation. I was not given a copy of the handout detailing the new bicycle lanes, I did not see copies of the handout, I did not notice display panels containing details of the new bicycle lanes, and I did not hear the new bicycle lanes presentation. I spoke with various City staff about different aspects of the reconstruction, and not once were the new bicycle lanes mentioned. Had that information come to light, GYRA would have immediately rejected the extension on behalf of our residents.

Routing left turn traffic onto Yorkville for westbound traffic, and onto Cumberland for eastbound traffic, will further clog these already congested and gridlocked streets. We know, we live here, we see bumper to bumper traffic inching its way, particularly along Yorkville Avenue, every business day, throughout the year. And, with the arrival of thousands of new residents moving into this area in the coming years, our chronic traffic woes will be exacerbated.

We are puzzled at the rationale to extend the new bicycle lanes 30 metres south of Bloor Street, where, at that point, the bicycle lanes will abruptly end, and cyclists will be back in the curb lane. It strikes us as incongruous that a mere 30 metres of bicycle lanes can take precedence over left turns at a major intersection.

Traffic congestion in Yorkville is a daily fact of life, as it is in downtown Toronto. We would prefer your Committee study and find solutions to mitigate the ever increasing congestion, and not add another layer of congestion.

GYRA cannot support the recommendation that will disrupt traffic, and create more congestion. We respectfully request the recommendation be rejected by your Committee.

Yours sincerely,
Gee Chung
President
THE GREATER YORKVILLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

c.c. GYRA Board of Directors