




**Complete
Streets**

tcat toronto centre for
active transportation 



May 27, 2014

HL31.1 Active City: Designing for Health

Dear Chair Joe Mihevc and Members of the Board of Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of Clean Air Partnership. TCAT conducts research and education that supports a vision for cities that are safe, convenient, and enjoyable communities to walk and bike.

I would like to express the support of TCAT for the *Active City: Designing for Health* report. This is another in a series of excellent evidence-based reports published by Toronto Public Health that set the vision and provide the health rationale for building our city so that all Torontonians can be active. The Active City principles should help to ensure that Complete Streets being the norm – streets that are safe for all residents regardless of age, ability or mode of travel.

We are impressed by the collaborative approach taken in developing this report, with the involvement of both Toronto Planning and Transportation Services. This is exactly what the City needs to be doing to tackle this multi-disciplinary, cross-divisional issue in a unified way. The inclusion of the case studies is a helpful resource for practitioners in putting the principles into practice and we are encouraged to see the recognition of the importance of community participation in developing a healthy active city.

While TCAT is supportive of the recommendation posed jointly by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Planner to host an Active City Forum to increase collaboration and engagement between multiple sectors and stakeholders on the implementation of the Active City Principles, we would like to see a recommendation that goes beyond a one-off event. For example, Complete Streets Guidelines are currently under development by Transportation Services and the transportation policies in the Official Plan are currently under review by City Planning. These present an opportunity to incorporate the Active City Principles into both of these processes. A recommendation from the Board of Health could request that Transportation Services and City Planning look for opportunities to collaborate on these and other key initiatives intended to encourage healthy transportation options as we grow an active city.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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