



Aug 6, 2014

RE: PG 35.2 – “Feeling Congested?” Recommended Official Plan Amendment for Selected Transportation Policies: Official Plan Amendment for Selected Transportation Policies: Official Plan Comprehensive Review

Dear Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of the registered charity Clean Air Partnership. TCAT’s mission is to advance knowledge and evidence to build support for safe and inclusive streets for walking and cycling.

At your meeting of Aug 7th, you will consider a proposal for an Official Plan Amendment addressing Toronto’s transportation policies. I would like to express the support of TCAT for the recommendations to amend the transportation policies Toronto Official Plan, based on the *Feeling Congested* initiative.

The proposed policy adding consideration for active transportation infrastructure is a critical step to transforming Toronto’s transportation system into one that is safer and more efficient for all users. Recent surveys show that many trips made by automobile in the Greater Toronto Area are a distance that is easily walkable or bikeable. Meanwhile, 69% of Torontonians say they would cycle more, with improvements to infrastructure and facilities to support cycling. The proposed policies in section 2.4 make it clear that Toronto acknowledges the benefits of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and TCAT applauds this progress.

TCAT also applauds the inclusion of Complete Streets principles in the proposed amendments. Incorporating this approach in the Official Plan recognizes the potential benefits to health and safety, when planners and engineers account for all road users in the integral design of our roads.

While there are ways in which we believe some of the wording in the Official Plan amendment could be further strengthened and provide more clarity, nevertheless these amendments make it clear Toronto is on track when it comes to providing high-level direction to ensure our transportation system meet the changing needs of Torontonians. However, the work cannot stop with the amended Official Plan. The City of Toronto needs to maintain this momentum and follow these policies with implementation tools that will allow staff to put these policies into practice. We look forward to continuing our role as an engaged stakeholder and to seeing these policies shape the development of Toronto’s Complete Streets Guidelines, currently underway, and a new Cycling Policy Framework and updated Bike Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Smith Lea".

Nancy Smith Lea
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