

Councillor **Mike Layton**



WARD 19 • TRINITY—SPADINA **MIKELAYTON.TO**



March 25, 2014

Re: Update on Bicycle route snow clearing

Dear Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

I am writing to request Transportation Services staff provide an update to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on requests made by City Council on several occasions to improve snow clearing in Toronto's bicycle lanes.

Cycling in Toronto can be dangerous even under ideal road and weather conditions. The addition of snow and ice to the road surface often makes even signed and dedicated bicycle routes impassable despite existing City efforts to clear them. Bicycle lanes require a higher standard for clearing as bicycles weigh much less than motorized vehicles and are less able to clear the snow and ice from a lane simply by driving on a roadway.

Requests have been made by City Council and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to develop standards for winter maintenance in bike lanes. Most recently, at the December 16, 2013 meeting of City Council item PW27.15 (Confirmation of Levels of Service for Roadway and Roadside Winter Maintenance Services) was adopted. By adopting PW27.15 City Council requested that:

...in an effort to promote winter cycling, that the General Manager, Transportation Services, report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the creation of a network of snow routes for Toronto's bikeway that receives priority clearing and that this report recommend what changes, if any, should be made to route signage.

I respectfully recommend that:

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee request that the General Manager, Transportation Services report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on May 14th, 2014 on winter maintenance for cycling infrastructure and progress to develop policies for ensuring the protection of cyclists.

Sincerely,

Mike Layton