



NORTH TORONTO
COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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To Whom It May Concern,

As the students and staff members of North Toronto Collegiate Institute (NTCI), a public secondary school located two blocks north of Yonge and Eglinton, we wish to see Eglinton Avenue become a safe and welcoming environment for all those who live, work, and attend school in the area.

The construction of the Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) provides an opportunity for Eglinton Avenue to be redesigned as a "Complete Street" based on recommendations from the Eglinton Connects Planning Study. This design will significantly improve the public realm with continuous, protected bike lanes, widened sidewalks, street furniture, large trees, and more patio space. The implementation of these recommendations will benefit the community by making the area more accessible to all users, especially cyclists and the large pedestrian population.

Unfortunately, many NTCI students and staff do not commute to school by bicycle, largely because they do not feel safe biking on arterial roads. Eglinton Avenue is currently dominated by motor vehicles moving at high speeds. There is no infrastructure to support safe cycling. Installing protected bike lanes along Eglinton will increase the number of students and staff who cycle to NTCI. Our school is ready to sustain an increase in bicycle traffic with amenities such as ample (though currently underused) bicycle parking. In addition to benefitting NTCI, bike lanes will increase the accessibility of the other 104 elementary and secondary public and Catholic schools within two kilometres of Eglinton Avenue. Cycling is an affordable and enjoyable way to get to school that will reduce the carbon footprint of students and staff, ease congestion, and promote an active lifestyle among young people.

Many students frequent the shops and restaurants of the Yonge and Eglinton area during lunchtime and after school. The implementation of a Complete Street design, with wider sidewalks, trees, benches, and public plazas, will expand the capacity of this crowded area and make it more enjoyable to spend time here. Businesses will benefit from the increased foot traffic and patio space, and the surrounding area will be transformed into a more vibrant place for everyone.

We urge the Toronto Public Works Committee and City Council to support a Complete Street along Eglinton and ensure the funding necessary to implement this design in time for the opening of the LRT in 2020.

On behalf of the students and staff of North Toronto Collegiate Institute,

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Student Council President

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