

April 8, 2014

RE: PW 30.12 – Improving Safety for Bicycle Commuters in Toronto

Dear Chairman Minnan-Wong and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure 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.

On behalf of TCAT, I am writing to express my support for the motion put forward by Councillor Mike Layton for a staff update on progress made toward implementing the series of recommendations adopted by City Council in October 2013, to improve the safety for bicycle commuters in Toronto. In particular we would like to see new policies and practices adopted for ensuring the protection of cyclists in construction areas.

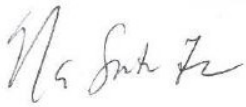
The photo below was taken recently at the corner of Queen and Bathurst. This is an unacceptable roadway condition that is especially dangerous for cyclists. Something is very wrong with the City's policies and practices when a construction area in the public right-of-way is left in this condition, unattended, for days and weeks on end.



Improving safety around construction zones is both a concern and benefit to all road users, in particular vulnerable road users, namely pedestrians and cyclists who face greater exposure to hazards. Cyclists are particularly susceptible to space constraints and rough pavement surface. In recognizing the increasing numbers of people using active transportation, especially in the downtown core, the current status quo does not prioritize the safety and accessibility of these modes to the same extent as motor vehicles as reflected in the policy language in planning and engineering standards and guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Smith Lea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nancy Smith Lea
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