

April 8, 2014

**PW 30.8 – Confirmation of Levels of Service for Winter Maintenance of Bikeways, Windrow Opening, Sidewalks and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Compliance**

Chair Minnan-Wong and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC),

I am writing on behalf of Cycle Toronto regarding PW 30.8. We are pleased to see the development of a network of snow routes for cyclists that would receive priority clearing and appropriate signage. Cycle Toronto is a diverse, member-supported organization that advocates for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly for all and currently represents over 2,300 Torontonians.

According to the 2009 City of Toronto Cycling Study, only 10% of Toronto cyclists continue riding in the winter. When asked what the City could do to encourage individuals to ride in the winter, 29% of respondents said better clearance of bike lanes, paths and streets. Staff's recommendations are a step in the right direction to increase safety for winter cyclists and help encourage more Torontonians to ride throughout the winter.

However, there are two additional pieces that would strengthen the report:

**Including future priority bikeways**

There is no provision for Richmond & Adelaide in the snow routes report. As a critical future connection for the downtown core, priority clearing of these cycle tracks is essential. We understand that the intention is to install the pilot project on Richmond & Adelaide this summer. Additionally, there is no consideration given for future contraflow lanes which will add crucial connectivity on local roads. These local roads are not provided for in the table in Appendix 1 of the report. Without specific guidance on these routes, contraflow lanes are effectively closed for the winter.

Considering that the pilot project for Richmond & Adelaide and other contraflow routes do not come forward to Committee until future meetings, it would be prudent that staff report back independently with their plans for priority clearing for these cycle tracks and other contraflow lanes.

**Evaluation**

The report includes no plan for evaluation. How will staff know if the snow clearing procedures they recommend are successful? Greater cycling volumes during winter months is an important goal. However, how will staff measure that? Will staff employ winter cycling counts?

Also, is more salt (when less than 5cm of snow has fallen) an effective way to ensure bare pavement conditions on priority bike routes? Staff should report back on effectiveness of these treatments.

We're pleased to see that new signage will be added to the network of snow routes; this will help communicate expectations to cyclists and help with any future evaluation plans.



416 644 7188  
info@cycleto.ca  
www.cycleto.ca

Cycle Toronto  
@ Centre of Social Innovation  
720 Bathurst Street, Suite 307  
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

On behalf of Cycle Toronto, we support staff's recommendations. We urge members of PWIC to direct staff to report back on plans for priority clearing for future priority bikeways and a plan for evaluation.

Sincerely,



Jared Kolb  
Executive Director  
Cycle Toronto



416 644 7188  
info@cycleto.ca  
www.cycleto.ca

Cycle Toronto  
@ Centre of Social Innovation  
720 Bathurst Street, Suite 307  
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4