



## Open Letter in Support of the Richmond-Adelaide Bikeway

May 13, 2014

### To the City Clerk:

*Please add these comments to the agenda for the May 14, 2014, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting on item PW31.7 (Richmond-Adelaide Cycle Track Planning and Design Study – Pilot Project).*

*I understand that our comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.*

### Comments:

Dear Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) members,

I am writing on behalf of Cycle Toronto Ward 18 to express our enthusiastic support for the pilot installation of protected bike lanes on Richmond and Adelaide in the downtown core. We also fully support the installation of related network connections, including contra-flow bicycle lanes on Phoebe, Stephanie, and Richmond west of Bathurst.\*

The Richmond-Adelaide bikeway is important to the many residents of Toronto's west end who currently have no direct bike route downtown. **Coupled with the future southern extension of the West Toronto Railpath, the Richmond-Adelaide cycle tracks will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst for rapid growth in bike commuting from the west end, especially among the majority of cyclists who do not feel comfortable cycling in rush hour in mixed traffic.** The benefits in terms of increased physical activity, reduced pollution and congestion, and reduced pressure on our overtaxed transit system will be significant.

As evidence from across North America suggests, the hallmark of a forward-looking city is a planning process that takes into account the needs of diverse cyclists—not only the current “fearless” and “confident” cyclists, but also the “interested but concerned” occasional riders who will join us on the streets when they feel that they are not taking their life in their hands. These are the riders from a variety of backgrounds, young and old, fast and slow, who would like nothing more than a safe bike route to perhaps drop their children at school and daycare and pedal along to work. It is these residents whose needs are best served by protected cycle tracks. The Richmond-Adelaide bikeway will serve as an important symbol of the City of Toronto's belated but welcome commitment to the real and perceived safety levels of these residents.

We sincerely hope that PWIC supports the Richmond-Adelaide bikeway as a vital piece of transportation infrastructure. On behalf of Cycle Toronto Ward 18, I appeal to you to support the recommendations of City staff and approve the pilot project.

Sincerely,  
Liz Sutherland  
(282A Brock Avenue)  
Cycle Toronto Ward 18

c.c. Councillor Ana Bailão  
Cycle Toronto  
Cycle Toronto Ward 19

*\* In partnership with Cycle Toronto Ward 19, we have additionally proposed a network connection on Adelaide west of Bathurst requiring minor intersection modifications at Portugal Square; this minor proposal would complement the network connections proposed in the City's pilot project report, particularly for cyclists travelling from the future extension of the West Toronto Railpath. Details of this proposal were shared with Transportation Services in a letter dated March 19, 2014 (available upon request).*