

May 26, 2015

PW 5.10 – Ensuring Safety for Cyclists during Construction & Closures

Chair Robinson and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC),

I am writing on behalf of Cycle Toronto regarding PW 5.10 **in support of the request of staff to develop new practices and protocol to ensure safety for cyclists during construction and closures.** Cycle Toronto is a diverse, member-supported organization that advocates for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all and currently represents over 2,900 Torontonians.

Toronto's roadways, especially in the downtown core, are increasingly used for a variety of operations. Lanes are often blocked for construction, events, festivals and filming.

While Toronto's on-street bicycle network is small compared to the number of roads across the city, the number of cyclists is growing. This puts increased pressure on each link in the bikeway network. When one is closed without an alternate, safe option, it creates serious issues for cyclists and other road users.

This was a major point of concern recently when the Richmond St cycle track was removed due to a film permit issued by Economic Development & Culture. No safe alternative was provided. This needs to change. Creating provisions for effective rollout of detour routes, including signage, will help address situations like these in the future.

We're pleased to see recent updates to the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 – Temporary Conditions that provides further guidance to provide safe passage for cyclists. However, we agree that OTM Book 7 doesn't properly address issues faced in downtown Toronto such as streetcar tracks and bicycle lanes with very high volumes of cyclists - issues not faced by other municipalities across the province. We're supportive of the request of staff to develop new protocol to supplement OTM Book 7.

On behalf of Cycle Toronto, we urge members of PWIC to support this staff request.

Sincerely,



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