

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

From: president@bikeottawa.ca
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee; Councillor Jaye Robinson; Councillor McMahon; Councillor Perruzza; Councillor Moeser; Councillor Lee; Councillor Holyday
Cc: Mayor Tory
Subject: PW12.1 Bike Lanes on Bloor

Dear Members of PWIC,

Apologies for my late email but this project is too important not to tell you my story. I am an example of a lost opportunity for the City of Toronto, related to cycling.

In brief, I lived in downtown Toronto (Cabbagetown) for 5 years before my wife and I decided to resettle in Ottawa in 2013. The move was due, in no small part, to the lack of safe cycling infrastructure in Toronto, and painfully slow progress on the bike plan. Thankfully, in Ottawa we found a progressive City Council who sees the value of investing in active transportation which has many benefits to all residents of the city, including drivers. It should be noted that I drive almost every day, and I also ride a bike to get places.

I am now the owner of a retail furniture business ([Maker House Co.](#)) which is thriving and paying taxes here instead of Toronto, and I am also President of Ottawa's bike advocacy group, known as Citizens for Safe Cycling (www.bikeottawa.ca). My own story is a drop in the bucket compared to the talent that Toronto is not catering to with your lacking bike infrastructure. I commend the current Council and City Staff in Toronto for taking some great strides in catching up to cities like Ottawa, or Montreal, with new or improved bike routes. Please double your efforts, as I know you will see the payoffs, including but not limited to:

- Less congestion
- Lower GHG emissions
- Lower public health costs
- Increased street-level retail activity
- Better talent attraction and retention, due to higher quality of life

I urge you, please do not pass up this critical opportunity to keep your momentum going on this file. Toronto cannot afford to fall further behind other world-class cities on cycling.

Thank you,

Gareth Davies
President, Citizens for Safe Cycling
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