

Les Domestiques
Cyclists who serve

April 18, 2016

Re: Les Domestiques Cycling Club Support of Pilot Bike Lanes on Bloor Street

Dear Mayor John Tory, Public Works Chair Jaye Robinson & Members of the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Les Domestiques Cycling Club. Our club was founded with a focus to serve society through cycling and our membership is made up exclusively of business and community leaders. As a group, we have raised and donated tens of millions of dollars for healthcare and social causes since our founding in 2009.

We are writing to voice our support for the proposed bike lanes on Bloor Street. Toronto has an opportunity to follow the leadership of cities like New York City and Montreal, who have embraced cycling infrastructure as a means to create a more livable city. We know from numerous studies, including those done by the City of Toronto, that cycling is clearly a growing transportation mode in all major urban centers in Canada.

Torontonians want to ride more often and they hope to do it safely. Over 70% of Torontonians would cycle more if infrastructure were improved. Bloor Street is currently a heavily used cycling corridor, and by building bike lanes we not only service existing users but will also encourage many more to use a bike for transport.

What's more, bike lanes on Bloor Street can get the city moving. More than 80% of the time, Bloor Street has two lanes of parking and two lanes of car traffic, treating half the roadway like a parking lot. Installing bike lanes would retain those two lanes of car traffic and one lane of parking. We can give Torontonians more transportation options and get the city moving.

To be clear, our support is not a challenge to motorists and car usage (we are all drivers too). What we support wholeheartedly is a city that welcomes and invests in safe, multi-modal transportation options so that we can do better at tackling traffic congestion, reducing air pollution and improving the health, lifestyle and safety of Torontonians. We trust you feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Tim Hockey, President – Les Domestiques Cycling Club

cc. Howard Chang, Darren Cooke, J-F Courville, T.J. Donnelly, Tricia Gadsden, Ron Mitchell, David Morland, Jeff Rushton, Ian Struthers.