

PW12.1.184

April 21, 2016

Re: PW12.1 - Bloor Street Design Feasibility Study and Bike Lane Pilot Project

Chair Robinson and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee:

We write as captains of Ward 32 Spokes, the community advocacy group representing Cycle Toronto members in ward 32 (Beaches - East York). We urge you to support the bike lane pilot and feasibility study on Bloor Street, as the next vital step in building a minimum grid of cycle lanes throughout Toronto.

Toronto's experience with similar projects on Sherbourne, Richmond, Adelaide and Simcoe streets shows that separated cycle tracks are the best way to enhance cyclist safety on busy downtown streets. In turn, more people choose cycling as a safe and sustainable alternative to driving, which leads to reduced congestion, cleaner air, and more active and healthy residents.

Cycling advocates have been calling for bike lanes on Bloor Street and Danforth Avenue for decades, and it's easy to see why. Long-running annual events like Bells on Bloor, Open Streets and Bike to Work Day show the huge demand for a safe space for people who ride bikes. Residents have told us at our neighbourhood outreach events, and more than 70 businesses who support cycling infrastructure through the Danforth Loves Bikes campaign agree, that Bloor/Danforth is a vital link for people who ride bikes all over the city. This pilot project will enable thousands who ride bikes from diverse neighbourhoods throughout East York and Scarborough and enter downtown via the Prince Edward Viaduct to continue safely to destinations further west.

Already more than 90% of people who travel into the study area arrive by a transportation mode other than a personal vehicle. Cycle tracks can only enhance this already vibrant part of our city.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to safe routes for all people who ride bikes in Toronto, and urge you again to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Neary
61 Crossovers Street
Toronto, ON M4E 3X2
On behalf of the membership of Ward 32 Spokes, Toronto

Greg Burrell
306 - 109 Beech Avenue
Toronto, ON M4E 3H5

