

PW13.11.112

May 13, 2016

Re: PW13.11 - Ten Year Cycling Network Plan

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

We write to you as the co-chairs of Ward 32 Spokes, a Cycle Toronto advocacy group representing members and cyclists in Ward 32 (Beaches-East York).

We are pleased that the new 10 year cycling network plan is coming to PWIC for discussion and approval. Ward 32 Spokes was very active in the shaping of the plan, not only for the cycling infrastructure improvements planned for our Ward, such as bike lanes on Woodbine and Danforth, but other aspects of the plan that will finally help to build a city-wide minimum grid. Some of the major corridors such as Lakeshore, Midland, Kingston Road, and Jane, will help inter-connect the entire city for cyclists. We met with city cycling staff on several occasions during the process to provide feedback and consultation.

A recent Angus Reid Forum poll shows that Torontonians across the city overwhelmingly (86%) support building a safe cycling network. Support comes from all over the city: 84% in North York, 79% in Etobicoke, 88% in Scarborough, even 81% of people who don't cycle. Two-thirds want a safe cycling network to be built in under 9 years, and support increased investment to make safer streets happen in a shorter time.

We strongly endorse scenario 5 of the staff report (appendix 10), increasing the annual cycling budget to \$25 million which would allow completion of 100% of the Cycling Network Plan in only 8 years, versus the \$16 million scenario proposed which will build only 85% in 10 years. The faster we are able to implement the plan, the faster more Torontonians will be able to choose cycling as a safe and healthy option for transportation. This will not only benefit people directly as they opt for healthier transportation options, but will also provide a number of other benefits such as easing congestion for everyone.

So many world-class cities such as New York, Paris, and London have embarked on making major investments to their cycling infrastructure as have our sister Canadian cities such as Montreal and Calgary. It's time for Toronto to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Smith
367 Woodbine Ave
Toronto, ON M4L 3P7

