February 20, 2016

RE: Request to extend the College Street bike lanes from Laplante Street to Yonge Street in conjunction with the removal of the TTC streetcar stop islands on College Street at Bay Street, Toronto and East York Community Council agenda item TE.14.45

Dear Councillor Wong-Tam,

The BCCA is a high rise residential community with our boundaries being Charles Street West to the north, Queen’s Park Crescent West to the west, College Street to the south and Yonge Street to the east. We have a population of about 12,000 citizens and currently have 12 residential towers under construction. The BCCA has supported the bike lanes and later cycle track on Wellesley Street, bike lanes on Hoskin Avenue/Harbord Street, Bay Street and Elizabeth Street. The College Street bike lanes are the heaviest used bike route in downtown Toronto as they serve major employers such as the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Hospital District and the Ontario Legislative Building and Provincial campus. Historically the bike lanes on College Street stopped at LaPlante Street because there were only 3.7 and 3.8 metres between the TTC streetcar stop islands and the curb east and west of Bay Street. With the proposal to remove the TTC streetcar stop islands there should be enough pavement width to extend the bike lanes. This section of College Street has a high volume of pedestrians, transit riders and drivers. It may be best to reconstruct the curb so that a protected cycle track at sidewalk level can be provided from Laplante Street to Yonge Street. This extended cycling route could connect into the Bay Street bike lanes and a potential revisioned and shared Yonge Street.

Respectfully,

Rick Whitten Stovall, BCCA President

CC: Membership of Bay Corridor Community Association
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