

From: [Etobicoke South Cycling Cmtee](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [Mayor Tory](#)
Cc: [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Barbara Gray](#); [Jacquelyn Hayward Gulati](#); [Shawn Dillon](#); info@cycleto.ca
Subject: PW24.9 - Bloor Street West Bike Lane Pilot Project Evaluation
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 11:50:57 AM

Attn: Members of **Toronto Council**:

The Etobicoke South Cycling Committee (ESCC) advocates for Cycling in our community, and works in conjunction with Cycle Toronto, and City staff, to help make Toronto a more bicycle-friendly city.

We are all aware that Bloor Street is a major east-west artery which traverses Toronto's downtown core to Danforth Avenue, and connects many communities along its route. The primary function of this continuous corridor is to enable the movement of people and goods throughout the City, safely and efficiently.

The *Bloor Street West Bike Lane Pilot Project*, over the past 12+ months, has shown that good things can happen when we share the available road space. Kudos must be given to City staff, TCAT and University of Toronto for their comprehensive reports which evaluate the logistical and economic impacts of the pilot project. The evidence, as presented, clearly shows the benefits when we allocate a slice of the roadway to cyclists. All road users - including drivers - are more comfortable when each has their own lane to travel in; collision rates are down; travel times for motorists are virtually unchanged; and local business is on pace with other neighbourhoods across the City. Adjustments during the pilot phase have addressed several concerns expressed by local businesses and motorists; we are confident that the City will continue to tweak the implementation of these bike lanes, for the betterment of the entire community.

The City's commitment to the **Vision Zero Road Safety Plan**, to eliminate all deaths and reduce serious injuries on Toronto's roadways, must be met with concrete actions. Everyone has a right to feel safe when getting around Toronto, by whichever mode of travel they choose, whether it is via transit, by car, on foot or by bicycle. Cyclists should not be afraid for their life when riding their bikes, for either utilitarian or recreational purposes. Protected bike lanes on Bloor Street will give riders a safe route to travel through the downtown core.

The **TransformTO Climate Change Action** plan, adopted by Toronto Council in July, aims to reduce the City's carbon footprint. The Transportation sector contributes fully one-third (35%) to greenhouse gas emissions. Encouraging people to reduce their dependence on motor vehicles to move around our city will help Toronto meet its stated goal. Building 'Complete Streets', which include cycling, will enable people to shift their daily commute onto bicycles, and will contribute to cleaner air and the health of its residents.

This should not be a "Bikes vs Cars" argument; instead, we must have a "Bikes AND Cars AND Pedestrians" dialogue. This is the 21st century. Everyone must learn to co-exist and share our public roadways.

The ESCC strongly supports this initiative by the City, and encourages Toronto Council to approve the City staff recommendation that the Bloor Street bike lanes become permanent. Also, we believe that the bike lanes should be extended further west along Bloor Street, as well as east along Danforth Avenue. This corridor will

create an important backbone in a safe cycling grid, as highlighted in Toronto's *10-Year Cycling Network Plan (2016-2025)*.

As the population of Toronto continues to grow, the City must adapt its use of our public space to meet the increasing demands of all people who need to move around our City, in any manner which suits them best. Cycling is becoming a larger part of the transportation mix, and safe cycling infrastructure across the City must grow to meet these changing requirements.

Sincerely,

R.Pylypiw
D.Juliusson