

May 5, 2017

RE: PW21.9 -- REimagining Yonge (Sheppard to Finch) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study - Interim Project Status Update

Dear Chair Jaye Robinson and Members of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Cycle Toronto regarding PW21.9 with **concern about City staff's recommendations.**

City staff are proposing that \$750,000 be approved for, among other things, yet again studying adding bicycle lanes to Doris Rd, Beecroft Ave and Willowdale Ave instead of protected bike lanes on Yonge. This is the result of a motion made by Councillor Shiner approved at the February 15th meeting of City Council.

City staff's recommendations are contrary to the 10 year Cycling Network Plan, approved last June, by Toronto City Council. The Plan was the result of 18 months of research, analysis and consultation done by City staff. During that process, City staff selected Yonge St as the primary cycling corridor and ruled out Doris and Beecroft as options for North York. Doris and Beecroft were designed as service roads for motor vehicles.

Bikes - and people- belong on Yonge St, and would help to finally implement Mayor Mel Lastman's vision of North York having its own safe, active and attractive downtown.

We find this merry-go-round quite frustrating. While it falls short of the cycling networks in many other North American cities, the 10 Year Cycling Network Plan is a fair plan to connect some of the gaps in our existing cycling network, grow the cycling network into new parts of the City and improve the quality of existing cycling network routes. What's more, City staff have also already studied Willowdale Ave and bicycle lanes are proposed for 2018/2019. It's a City Council approved plan and we should stick with it.

Toronto City Council must stop this incessant need for paralyzingly studying projects to death and the cost associated therein. We have a plan. Let's follow through and get the job done.



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We recommend that members of PWIC do not support the expansion of the REimagining Yonge Environmental Assessment to include Doris and Beecroft and instead direct City staff to continue their focus on Yonge St.

Sincerely,



Jared Kolb
Executive Director
Cycle Toronto

Cycle Toronto is a diverse, member-supported organization that advocates for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all and currently represents over 2,700 Torontonians.



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