

May 8, 2017

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

Dear Councillor Robinson and public works committee members,

I am writing on behalf of the David Suzuki Foundation to express concern about the proposal to study bicycle lanes on Doris Road and Beecroft Avenue instead of moving ahead with protected bike lanes on Yonge Street.

The proposal to consider Doris and Beecroft seems at odds with the council-approved 10-year Cycling Network Plan. That plan wisely chose Yonge as the main cycling corridor for North York.

We believe Yonge Street north of the 401 has enormous potential. But to realize this vision, the roadway needs to be more pedestrian- and cycle-friendly.

To begin, we need to widen sidewalks and install protected bike lanes. This will help create a "people place" along Yonge and benefit everyone. Local residents will be more likely to use the street for exercise and recreation. Parents will feel more secure walking along the street with their children. Local businesses will enjoy more walk-in customers as the corridor transforms from a highway into a vibrant downtown-style destination.

Putting bike lanes on Doris and Beecroft seems like an effort to marginalize cyclists. We do not agree with this approach. If Yonge is North York's main thoroughfare it's here that cyclists need to be — especially if we want to support neighborhood shop owners.

We urge you to drop the proposal to study Doris and Beecroft and instead direct staff to expedite the installation of protected bike lanes on Yonge Street.

Thank you for considering our request.

Yours,

Gideon Forman

Transportation Analyst

The David Suzuki Foundation

(416) 348-9885, ext. 1575