



Ursula Franklin Academy

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Georgia Gallagher, Principal Barbara Wagner-Heim, Vice-Principal

City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

May 24, 2017

To the Committee,

The students and staff of Ursula Franklin Academy (UFA) would like to express our support for extending bike lanes on Bloor Street, as proposed in the Cycling Network Ten Year Plan. We would like to see the section of Bloor Street that services our school and surrounding community of High Park included. Please find our school community's petition of support for Bike lanes on Bloor attached.

Many of UFA's students and staff bicycle to school, and extending the bike lanes on Bloor Street would allow for a safer and more efficient route to UFA. The route is simple, straight and there are no streetcar tracks to negotiate. Extending bike lanes on Bloor would encourage more members of our school community to see cycling as a viable means of active transportation and as a safe, fun way to explore our amazing city. Additionally, those living in our greater community would benefit from having these bike lanes because more cyclists means less cars on the road and a reduction of traffic and emissions, and there would be less crowding on already busy TTC routes. Cycling is a sustainable form of transportation that builds healthier and happier communities. Bike lanes on Bloor lends to making this a reality for Torontonians.

The City of Toronto has made some great improvements to cycling infrastructure, but more work needs to be done. A world-class city like Toronto must better serve the needs of those who call it home as well as the millions of visitors that come to the city each year who *could* chose to explore all it has to offer by bicycle but do not because it simply lacks a sensible series of safe cycling routes. Our city needs to further its work in creating a network of cycling routes that would connect those living in the east and the west. As it stands, this disconnect between the existing bike lanes in the city of Toronto is a barrier for many who are not confident sharing the road with motor vehicles. Everyone deserves the opportunity to ride a bike, whether it is to go to the local park or to get around the city, and everyone ought to feel safe doing so, no matter where they live. We urge you to continue helping to make Toronto a more livable city, and this includes connecting the communities across Bloor Street with bike lanes.

Thank you for your consideration of our statement, and we look forward to your final recommendations to council.

Sincerely,

The Staff and Students of Ursula Franklin Academy

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