

Ryerson City Building Institute

Advancing Urban Transformation



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October 17, 2017

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

I'm writing to you from the Ryerson City Building Institute (CBI), a multidisciplinary centre focused on issues relevant to city regions nationally and globally. CBI brings together political leadership, policy ideas, and people from diverse backgrounds to address critical urban challenges.

This letter is to express our support of the Bloor Street bike lanes pilot project. Downtown Toronto is currently booming, and the area's population is expected to almost double over the next 25 years. Now is the time for the city to prepare for the rapid changes we will experience in the coming years. Making the Bloor Street bike lanes permanent would be a bold step towards envisioning the kind of city we want Toronto to be in the future.

Mobility is already a challenge for many people in Toronto's core, and permanent bike lanes on Bloor Street would be an important addition to the city for several reasons. Firstly, bike lanes are safer for cyclists and reduce conflicts among all road users. Secondly, the lanes provide more options for residents to get around to their daily destinations. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, cycling is a simple and effective way to reduce traffic congestion and associated emissions.

As downtown Toronto grows and intensifies, we will experience numerous arguments and counter-arguments over proposed changes. However, data collected during the project demonstrates positive outcomes: retail sales in the area were up since the pilot project began and the volume of cyclists has increased. Furthermore, the Bloor bike lanes have garnered broad public support.

I hope that the City of Toronto follows the recommendations of the recent report by the City of Toronto's Transportation Services team, and makes the Bloor bike lanes permanent and considers expanding them to connect with other cycling routes to support the City's goal to build a cycling network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cherise Burda'.

Cherise Burda, Executive Director
Ryerson City Building Institute