



MM43.4.3

Toronto Youth Cabinet

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MM43.4 Accelerating Road Safety Enhancements on Bloor Street West

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

The Toronto Youth Cabinet, the City of Toronto's official youth advisory body, supports the member motion put forth by Councillor Cressy and Councillor Layton to enhance the safety of cyclists on Bloor Street West.

The continuing deaths of pedestrians and cyclists on our streets is unacceptable and we must do everything possible to protect them. This includes improved, permanent separation which protects cyclists from moving cars and opening doors of stationary vehicles.

The Toronto Star has reported 93 pedestrians and cyclists have died on Toronto's streets in the last two years. Three recently reported cyclist fatalities occurred at intersections with bicycle lanes. Simply having cycling infrastructure in place is not enough. As Toronto Public Health noted in their 2015 report on pedestrian and cycling safety, intersections are where the majority of collisions occur. Toronto's existing cycling lanes provide cyclists with minimal separation from vehicles at intersections. This must change. City Council needs to address the lack of protection at intersections, and study ways in which other cities are protecting cyclists in these locations where they are most vulnerable.

Data from the 2016 Transportation Tomorrow Survey indicates that youth use active transportation to get around Toronto more than any other age group. Physically altering our



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roads to make walking and cycling safer is a priority for the Toronto Youth Cabinet as the City strives to reach Vision Zero.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet fully supports this member motion and the acceleration of safety improvements to the Bloor Street West Bike Lanes.

Sincerely,

The Toronto Youth Cabinet

Eli Aaron

Transit Lead