



July 15, 2019

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
 100 Queen Street West
 Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
 Attention: Marilyn Toft
 Email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

RE: IE6.11 Cycling Network Plan Update: Recommendation #19 re Bikes on Sidewalks

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council,

Cycle Don Valley Midtown (CDVM) is the cycling advocate for Wards 15 and 16, in liaison with Cycle Toronto. (This communication represents the view of CDVM on the issue, not necessarily that of Cycle Toronto).

This communication to City Council is in addition to our earlier communication to Infrastructure and Environment Committee on June 26, 2019 regarding the Cycling Network Plan (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ie/comm/communicationfile-95753.pdf>)

and is occasioned by the additional Motion adopted by IEC which is listed as recommendation #19.to item IE6.11 in the City Council agenda.

19. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to develop a pilot project to allow bike traffic on sidewalks, for example where there is a high volume of car traffic and few pedestrians and report back by the fourth quarter of 2020 on the merits of allowing cyclists on designated sidewalks.

This Recommendation has generated significant discussion in our group. The results of this dialogue are nuanced:

- there is some support for sidewalk riding where no other safe option exists; but
- the priority is other safe, separated options, i.e. bike tracks, multimodal trails etc.

(1) Cyclists riding on sidewalk cannot be presented as risk-free – there is potential for cycling/pedestrian conflicts and an increased risk to pedestrians. Driveways crossing the sidewalk present a special danger to cyclists. Drivers exiting driveways are not expecting (fast moving) bikes, only (slow moving) pedestrians.

(2) Currently sidewalk riding is technically illegal; a condition of any change would need to be that it would no longer be illegal to use sidewalks at locations where the infrastructure leaves cyclists with dangerous options

(3) Sidewalk riding is no solution to the lack of suburban infrastructure and there is great concern that this idea will be used as an excuse for not investing in suitable infrastructure in the suburbs.

(4) By raising this Motion and IEC adopting it, Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong has highlighted the inadequate attention to safe cycling solutions in the suburbs. Suburban ROWs tend to be wide and technically there is often space for bike lanes, yet the speed differential between the bikes and vehicles on the travelled lanes is too great for riders to feel safe. Multi-modal trails above the travelled lanes may be an option. Just letting cyclists use the sidewalk is not the answer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Kettel, Holly Reid, Louis Fliss,
for Cycle Don Valley Midtown

c.c. Councillor Denzil Minnan Wong
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Jacquelyn Hayward Gulati, Director, Transportation Services.
Jared Kolb, Executive Director, Cycle Toronto