



June 27, 2019

To Infrastructure and Environment Committee Chair and Members:

Re: Moving the Bloor Bike Lanes Forward To High Park Avenue

In 2016, the City of Toronto's 10 Year Cycling Plan identified Bloor Street as a potential East-West cycling route in the City's core. Bloor Street has served as one of the most heavily utilized cycling corridors in the City even before the pilot was undertaken.

With the Bloor Bike Lanes pilot project, the City was able to study the impacts and benefits of bike lanes on this major east-west thoroughfare. Following a year of comprehensive study, the results demonstrated a significant benefit for all commuters along the Bloor Street corridor. Even with an increase of nearly 50% of cyclists using the route, the City's consultations showed both drivers and cyclists felt safer on Bloor Street West, with a minimal impact on vehicle traffic. In addition, in a review of local businesses, most merchants reported an increase in customers, return customers and increased spending. Currently, over 5,000 cyclists utilize this route on weekdays.

As a major east-west thoroughfare, Bloor Street is a cycling artery that connects the surrounding community to the core, employment lands, and the existing north-south cycling network connections. On an increasing basis, residents in the west end of Toronto are relying on cycling as a mode of transportation and recreation. An extension of the Bloor Street Bike Lanes from Shaw Street to High Park Avenue will create an improved and safer avenue for cyclists from around Toronto to commute across the city.

In conjunction with the targets of the City's 10 Year Cycling Plan, the extension of the Bloor Street Bike Lanes to High Park Avenue should be considered a priority project for this 10 Year Cycling Plan.

Through the promotion of the extension of the cycle track, the City will be showing its commitment to supporting all commuters and to meeting its Cycling Plan targets. It is important to continue to work with local residents, organizations and businesses to ensure that this project considers all their concerns and observations.

Recommendation:

Infrastructure and Environment Committee requests:

1. The General Manager, Transportation Services, to initiate planning, design and consultation for an extension of the Bloor Street West cycle tracks from Shaw Street to High Park Avenue, with implementation targeted to take place as early as summer 2020.

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão
Councillor – Ward 9, Davenport

Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

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