



June 26, 2019

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins
email: iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE6.11 Cycling Network Plan Update

Dear Councillor James Pasternak, Chair, and Members, Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Don Valley Midtown is the cycling advocate for Wards 15 and 16, in liaison with Cycle Toronto. We have reviewed the Cycling Network Plan Update and appreciate the many positive steps taken towards creating an effective process for enhancing cycling facilities in Toronto. It is important for groups like ours to understand how cycling projects get into the implementation pipeline and the report clarifies this process and the timelines involved.

One of the critical major corridors identified in the report is *Eglinton Connects Streetscape and Cycle Tracks*. The report notes that the City's portion of this project is presently unfunded and implementation is planned for after the Eglinton Crosstown LRT construction is completed. *Eglinton Connects* promises to be a central spine for mid-town cycling, crossing neighbourhoods from some of the most affluent in Toronto to some of the most economically challenged. Furthermore, this corridor has the potential to deliver significant gains in trips of 5 km or less being completed by bike.

Like other wards that border the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project, we in Wards 15 and 16 have endured significant inconvenience, noise, neighbourhood traffic infiltration and increased travel times due to the construction of this important transit line. We anticipate that there will be little appetite among residents for additional roadway construction post-LRT implementation and are concerned that objections to more construction could derail implementation of this key cycling corridor. With this in mind, we urge Council to ask what it would take to accelerate the design and implementation of the *Eglinton*

Connects Streetscape and Cycle Tracks so that completion is as close as possible to the completion of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. Although Council's inquiry as to what it would take to implement the entire Cycling Network Plan by 2022 is noted in the report as not feasible, this project should require significantly fewer human resources and less funding to accelerate.

In 2019, new bike lanes were implemented in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park communities without the important connector of protected bike lanes on Overlea Blvd. between Don Mills Road and Millwood Road and the Leaside Bridge. Until this connection is in place, the cycling potential of the City's investment is unlikely to be realized. We understand that an Environmental Assessment is required for changes to Overlea Blvd, and, in particular, for changes to the bridge over the Don Valley, leading to Don Mills Road. We urge Council to request that the EA process begin in 2019 so that this project can move into the implementation pipeline as soon as possible.

We note that the cycling infrastructure associated with *Midtown-in Focus* is scheduled for study to begin in 2021. The important north/south connections on Avenue Road, Yonge Street and Mount Pleasant Avenue, will bring greater cycling potential to residents living north of Bloor Street and relieve some of the transportation pressures on the Yonge Street corridor. Changes to these streets will require extensive community consultation and we ask that these studies be moved forward in order to get these projects approved and scheduled for implementation before the end of the current Council term.

To summarize, we request:

- City Council ask the City Manager and the General Manager, Transportation Services, to initiate an assessment of what would be required in terms of resources and funding to complete Eglinton Connects Streetscape and Cycle Tracks at the same time as the completion of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT.
- City Council ask the General Manager, Transportation Services, to begin the Environmental Assessment process for protected cycling infrastructure on Overlea Blvd between Don Mills Road and Millwood Road and the Leaside Bridge.

- City Council ask the General Manager, Transportation Services, to advance the scheduled study for *Midtown-in-Focus* cycling infrastructure to be completed and approved before the end of 2021.

We recognize that the above requests will require additional funding. We also understand that the Federal Government has significant infrastructure money seeking opportunities for deployment in Ontario. We trust that City Council will take every opportunity to secure some of this funding for Toronto to advance and enhance our cycling network.

Respectfully submitted,

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

c.c. Councillor Jaye Robinson
Chris Murray, City Manager
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Jacquelyn Hayward Gulati, Director, Transportation Services.
Jared Kolb, Executive Director, Cycle Toronto