



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

MM10.3.7

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215  
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2  
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

October 1, 2019

Toronto City Council and Mayor Tory  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Toronto City Council and Mayor Tory,

**RE: MM10.3 Declaring a Climate Emergency and Accelerating Toronto's Climate Action Plan**

My name is Keagan Gartz and I am the Interim Executive Director of Cycle Toronto, a member-supported not-for-profit organization that works to make Toronto a healthy, safe and vibrant cycling city for all.

Cycle Toronto has joined with the Toronto Environmental Alliance and more than 50 other organizations in calling on Toronto City Council to declare a climate emergency and to accelerate the implementation of the City's TransformTO climate action plan. This is an important step to addressing the climate crisis and ensuring a sustainable future for Toronto. **We are pleased to see Mayor Tory and Council support this.**

In order to realize our ambitious climate goals, we will need to accelerate the adoption of carbon-free trips such as those made by bicycles, scooters, cargo bikes, e-bikes, e-skateboards, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices which support active transportation. The evidence is clear: people across the city would choose to ride—whether to work, school, the park, or the store—if they felt it was safe to do so. **We need a citywide network of protected bike lanes to meet our climate action transportation goals.**

Fortunately, **cycling infrastructure is incredibly cheap, quickly implemented, and highly effective.** In 2016, the 2.4km long Bloor Street protected bike lane was installed for only \$0.5 million. That small investment has since resulted in nearly 1 million carbon-free trips annually. Similarly, the immensely successful Richmond/Adelaide protected bike lanes allow for thousands of low-carbon trips in the core every single day.

By declaring a climate emergency, City Council is showing their commitment to tackling the climate crisis. As part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, we recommend City Council commit to the following:





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1. **Commit to completing the major city-wide routes in the City's Cycling Network Plan by 2030** to align City Cycling Network Plan timelines with the accelerated timelines for TransformTO 2.0 targets and actions.
2. **Establish interim 2023 and 2027 implementation targets for the Cycling Network Plan** to align with TransformTO reporting benchmarks to ensure completion by 2030.
3. **Allocate a greater annual investment into the City's Cycling Network Plan implementation**, beginning with the 2020 Budget Process to support the completion of major city-wide routes by 2030.

Thank you for your climate action leadership and your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keagan Gartz".

Keagan Gartz, Interim Executive Director  
Cycle Toronto

