



March 31, 2019

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

RE: PH4.1 Don Mills Crossing - Final Report (Ward 16)

Dear Councillor Anna Bailao, Chair, and Members, Planning and Housing Committee,

Cycle Don Valley Midtown (Cycle DVM) is the cycling advocate for Wards 15 and 16, in liaison with Cycle Toronto.

Improved connectivity and the development of safe alternatives to automobile travel are key goals of the Toronto Official Plan, and the Don Mills Secondary Plan. The stated goals in the Don Mills Crossing Report include the following for Active Transportation:

“The study area exhibits poor connectivity in pedestrian and cycling networks, which is attributed to the lack of local streets and presence of cul-de-sacs, discontinuous sidewalks and cycling facilities with physical barriers (valley/ravine system, Don Valley Parkway, CP rail corridor). Recreational trails are located along the West and East Don River, however there are a few key locations where the trails are not continuous, resulting in longer walking distances for nearby residents and visitors. Safety is another key concern for active transportation users, especially for crossing activities at the major intersection of Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue, where higher number of lanes, traffic exposure and longer clearance distances present higher collision risks.”

The Plan addresses this goal only in part. It proposes to connect the Don Mills Trail (north) and the Don River Trail (south) via a new crossover (or under) of the CP Rail line on the west side of the Celestica site, and utilization of the clover leaf connections under Eglinton Avenue. When implemented, this would enable a continuous north/south corridor for both commuter and recreational cyclists between North York (York Mills Road) and the Lakeshore.

However, in addition there needs to be a safe cycling alternative to Don Mills Road on the north and east side of the Plan area. A proposal has been submitted to PHC by Ron Kluger (PH.Main.PH4.1.2) for a bike/pedestrian connection across (or under) the CP Rail line on the north side for residents on the west and east side of Don Mills Road. This proposal would extend Prince Andrew Place (which is currently a cul de sac that

ends near the rail line) with the Celestica Project (thereby leading to the Don River Trail) with a bike/pedestrian connection over or under the CP Rail track.

Cycle DVM supports the Don Mills Crossing Secondary Plan as far as it goes but we believe it does not go far enough to connect the Study Area with the areas around it. We believe that the Plan should resist treating the CP Rail corridor as an impenetrable barrier, instead it should do its utmost to create porosity, and increase opportunities for safe mobility for the residents of the Project and its neighbours.

We request:

- **that Planning and Housing Committee recommend to Council that the Prince Andrew Place extension to the Celestica Project (multi-purpose trail and rail crossover) be incorporated into the Don Mills Crossing Plan.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Kettel, Holly Reid Louis Fliss
for Cycle DVM

c.c. Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
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