



Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Tyler Riches, Vice-President Public & University Affairs

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RE: CC21.20 - Cycling Network Plan Installations: Bloor West Bikeway Extension & ActiveTO Projects

Dear members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU), and students at the University of Toronto - St. George campus, I am writing to you today to ask that Toronto City Council adopt Item CC21.20 and the recommendations therein to expand ActiveTO and cycling infrastructure projects in the City of Toronto. The implementation of these recommendations would benefit the health and wellness of students and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will contribute to safer and more convenient commutes for students cycling to campus, in September and beyond.

The UTSU applauds the establishment of the ActiveTO program. Many students are currently on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19, working in grocery stores, hospitals, research, and more. Additionally, students living in Toronto are making trips to the grocery store, walking their dogs, and going for runs. It's crucial that the City does what it can to protect students, workers, and Toronto residents as they carry out these essential activities. The ActiveTO program, in aiming to make sure residents have the space to get around while adhering to physical distancing practices, is a good step towards this goal of safety and protection.

The recommendations made in the May 25 report of the General Manager, Transportation Services would see 25km of new cycling infrastructure installed across Toronto, including along Bloor Street East, Dundas Street East, University Avenue and Queen's Park Crescent. These corridors are frequently used by students cycling to home, work, and class. As students begin looking to the upcoming fall semester, the installation of new cycling infrastructure in our downtown core would serve to increase safety and convenience for students cycling to and from campus, well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

We encourage Toronto City Council to adopt Item CC21.20 and the recommendations therein, and approve the expansion of Toronto's cycling network, for the reasons outlined above. We would also encourage Toronto City Council to consider increasing the availability of bicycle parking in order to complement this new cycling infrastructure.

Yours in service,

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