



May 27, 2020

Delivered by email:

councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Mayor Tory and Members of Council;

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

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is an incorporated non-profit community association whose boundaries (Yonge to Parliament) incorporate the section of Bloor St East from Church to Sherbourne Streets which are addressed in the above report. Please note that we are a true "Community Association" whose membership and catchment area includes condominiums, office towers (eg 365 Bloor St E, Rogers Communications Head Offices), small retail operations, churches, apartment buildings and individual homeowners or residents all of which are invited to and many attend our meetings.

BENA supports the installation of Cycling Lanes on this portion of Bloor Street East which is primarily in Ward 11 with a portion shared with Ward 13. We understand that this portion has its challenges, however reviewing the high-level concept for this portion contained in the report, we believe any local issues can be overcome. The ongoing dialog with both the City Staff and Councillor Layton and Wong-Tam should provide adequate input to address any local concerns.

BENA has a long history of advocating for Cycling Lanes on the portion of Bloor Street and spans three Councillors time in office.

BENA has been a strong advocate for the provision of safe passage of all types of transportation along Bloor Street East. The exclusion of Cycling Lanes in this short portion of Bloor Street has led to unsafe conditions for both cyclists and pedestrians, with pedestrians (including those with disabilities) being the most at risk.

We would like to thank Councillor Wong-Tam for her eight years of advocacy and for Councillor Layton's recent work on this important connection. During that time, we have had public interactions and public consultations of which some included Councilor Wong-Tam, MPP Glen Murray, Toronto Police Services and Transportation Staff. Based on our membership and catchment base and the City's Public Consultation, all stakeholders have been at the table and had an opportunity to provide input.

A brief history is as follows:

- Addressed at almost every Annual General Meeting and General Meeting of the Association
- Promise of sharrows painted on this portion – Cancelled
- Redesign of the Public Realm including installation of Cycling Lanes with high level concepts prepared by Victor Ford and Associates, Landscape Architects
- Presentation introducing the outside Architects and high-level plans made at BENA AGMs and General Meetings
- Public Consultation on Plans prepared hosted by City Transportation

- City of Toronto Project Page prepared <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/public-consultations/infrastructure-projects/bloor-street-east-streetscape-improvements/>
- Original projected completion date – summer 2017 delayed to 2019, delayed to 2021 and now unknown as completion depends on the Glen Road Footbridge completion which is now delayed with COVID-19

We believe the time of consultation is done. It is way past time to get on with completion of the connection of the Bloor Street Cycling Network for this small linkage of Bloor Street East.

Respectfully submitted;

Linda Brett, President BENA

On behalf of BENA

Cc Councilors Layton and Wong-Tam
BENA Executive