



**Cycle Toronto Midtown**  
Ward 8 & 12 Advocacy Group

May 18, 2020

To: Mayor John Tory, Councillor Josh Matlow, Councillor Mike Colle, ActiveTO  
CC: Barbara Gray, Jacquelyn Hayward, Becky Katz - City of Toronto Transportation Services

We are excited to see the City finally exploring major routes for cycling, mobility and active transportation as part of the ActiveTO initiative!

Transportation is a vital need for people in our city. As the City reopens, ensuring our transit system is not overloaded with passengers will be critical to ensure safety. Our road network doesn't have the capacity for former transit commuters to drive. Many people in our neighbourhoods, including our vulnerable essential workers, only have access to transit, walking or bicycles as their options to get to work, get basic necessities like food and medicine, and attend vital care. People need another option to get around that isn't transit or a car; that option is bicycles.

As such, our group asks that bikeways be implemented urgently through ActiveTO, by protecting space on two key streets in Midtown:

- 1) **Yonge St**, as the top priority, and
- 2) **Eglinton Ave**, as a second priority

Maintaining a safe, non-transit option on Yonge will be crucial in the post-lockdown recovery. The Yonge subway was North America's busiest, formerly carrying over 750,000 people per day; to prevent overcrowding for those people who still must ride transit, like essential service workers, we must enable other transportation modes. Yonge connects dense neighbourhoods in North York, Midtown and Downtown, and a high density of employers, workplaces and other destinations along the route.

Constructing a bikeway on Yonge is quite feasible - due to construction Yonge is already narrowed down to 1 road lane at Eglinton (Crosstown LRT), St Clair (water main work), and Bloor (condo construction). Between these short bottlenecks, where people biking can share the road with motor vehicles, the remaining 2-3 lanes of street space can easily be dedicated to safe active transportation, providing a safe and much more space-efficient method of transportation for people. A similar same design can be applied to Eglinton.

Providing a bikeway on Yonge also provides many more potential customers to the businesses along the route, supporting them during the recovery; these customers would ordinarily have been underground in the subway.

Thank you for taking the initiative to keep Toronto safe and healthy.

John Taranu  
Cycle Toronto Midtown  
Ward 8 & 12 Advocacy Group