



**Gary E. Newton, MD, FRCPC**  
**President and CEO, Sinai Health**

19-310, 600 University Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5G 1X5  
t. 416-586-5062 f. 416-586-8787  
Gary.Newton@sinaihealth.ca

May 27, 2020

The Honourable John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

**Re: Doctors for Safe Cycling Support Letter – Sinai Health**

The promotion of active transportation in the community through cycling is extremely important in the Discovery District, specifically Hospital Row, a downtown Toronto area which has several large hospitals in close proximity to each other. This area has no protected bike lanes and very little bike parking, and is in need of additional cycling support.

Sinai Health would like to lead by example and shape the culture of our community by promoting healthier lifestyles through proper infrastructure to support cycling. With the addition of protected bike lanes, we will be able to ensure our frontline staff, which includes doctors, nurses and other essential workers, a safer travel path to get in and out of the hospital district.

In June 2017, Sinai Health sent a bicycle survey to all staff to gather data on the cycling needs of employees. We found that 63% of staff said they cycle to work, and 64% of staff live within 10 km of the hospital. This highlighted our strong cycling culture. It wasn't surprising that 80% surveyed said there is inadequate bike parking and they would like to see protected bike lanes.

We support City Council increasing cycling infrastructure in the hospital district by providing dedicated bike lanes. In addition to hospital workers and students, we also hope to encourage visitors to the area to ride their bikes. Our neighbours at University Health Network, SickKids, University of Toronto and the Orde Street Public School would benefit from protected bike lanes in this area as well.

We know that there is a wealth of published literature that shows the value of cycling to cities that promote it. Reduced carbon emissions, increased cardiovascular exercise, reduced risk of diabetes and heart disease, and improved mental well-being are just a few of the many benefits.

With this letter we fully support Doctors for Safe Cycling and Cycle Toronto's call for dedicated bike lanes along University Avenue, to help ensure the safety of our essential frontline workers traveling in and out of the downtown core.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Gary Newton", written over a white background.

Gary Newton, MD  
President & CEO, Sinai Health