IF14.17.1



Thursday, July 23, 2020

City of Toronto 100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Support for the Mobility Greenway Conservancy (IE14.17)

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition regarding the motion before you about the Mobility Greenway. We support this initiative and hope that you will vote to move forward on this project to strengthen northwest Toronto with a practical mobility network connecting businesses, entrepreneurs and residents to places and new opportunities.

We support this initiative to build 31km of off-street cycle paths because it will help meet the demand amongst residents for more transportation choices, including cycling. Our own polling shows that 40% of Toronto residents would prefer to ride a bicycle more often and that 67% would do so if there was more and better cycling infrastructure in their neighbourhood (Nanos, 2018). This demand for new safe cycling and walking options has only increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidenced by the high user rates measured along the #ActiveTO network and through a global dashboard created and managed by Eco-Counter (https://www.eco-compteur.com/en/covid19-dashboard/).

The community plan to build a Mobility Greenway re-imagines underutilized spaces and turns them into community assets. As outlined in the plan, this project will make it easier for people and businesses to travel across Toronto's northwest while also creating a linear park that provides a safer design, prevents flooding, and reduces congestion.

Share the Road is pleased to voice our support for this community-driven project. We urge you to accept the recommendations made by the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and work with local partners to report back on next steps required to:

- 1. Plan, construct and maintain the Mobility Greenway;
- 2. Determine proposal alignment with City approved strategies and recommendations related to Recovery and Rebuild efforts and guiding policies;
- 3. Explore options to obtain federal and provincial funding supporting the building of a fully functional Mobility Greenway pilot section in northwest Toronto.

As one of Ontario's leading Bicycle Friendly Communities, we hope that Toronto will continue to take bold action to support the mobility needs of residents and local businesses, including the adoption of the Mobility Greenway.

Regards,

Jamie Stuckless Executive Director jamie@sharetheroad.ca