

councilmeeting

From: Edithvale-Yonge Community <edithvaleyonge@gmail.com>
Sent: September 23, 2020 9:12 PM
To: councilmeeting
Cc: midtown@cycleto.ca; Councillor Filion; Geoff Kettel
Subject: IE15.11: Support for Midtown Yonge Bikeway Proposal
Attachments: FoNTRA Yonge bikeway request.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Edithvale Yonge Community Association supports the attached matter prepared by FONTRA.

thank you
Garry Lam, P.Eng.
President, Edithvale Yonge Community Association

The motion approved by the IEC and moving forward to Council is below:

“The Infrastructure and Environment Committee request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to consider and explore including, as part of either the 2021 update to the cycling network plan, the COVID-19 pandemic cycling network expansion response plan or potentially as part of the YongeTOmorrow process, a temporary protected bikeway along Yonge Street from south of St. Clair Avenue to north of Lawrence Avenue in conjunction with on-street patios, road safety and traffic-calming measures, and other streetscape improvements identified through consultation with local businesses and community groups, following the complete streets approach applied to Danforth Avenue, with implementation by the second quarter of 2021, and iteration and evaluation throughout 2021.”

Midtown Councillors Josh Matlow and Mike Layton also [submitted a strong letter in support](#) of the motion too.

With your help, we could be experiencing all the benefits of a Yonge Bikeway by next summer! [A dedicated bikeway on Yonge makes sense for so many reasons:](#)

- Record numbers of people are now biking. If we provide them safe routes to bike for transportation, we can preserve space on the Yonge subway for those who absolutely must take transit - including essential workers commuting long distances or people unable to bike.
- Through ActiveTO the City has proven that bike lanes can be rolled out quickly and cheaply on a trial basis.
- Construction at Yonge & Eglinton and Yonge & Bloor means auto capacity on the street is already constrained to 2 lanes. Between these bottlenecks, Yonge widens to 6 lanes, providing plenty of room to maintain traffic lanes *and* add protected, safe bike lanes.
- Our [#BikesLoveYonge campaign](#), which was supported by all four BIAs in Midtown, showed our local merchants that, as Mayor Tory says, “bikes mean business!”

Imagine – by next spring Yonge street, from south of St. Clair to north of Lawrence, could provide the vibrant streetscape experience that we’ve seen on Danforth Avenue, with more space for walking, biking and patio dining while keeping everyone safe.



July 26, 2020

Mayor John Tory and Councillors Josh Matlow, Jaye Robinson, Mike Colle, Mike Layton

Why FoNTRA supports a temporary bikeway on Yonge this summer

FoNTRA joins our many Residents Associations along Yonge Street in asking you to urgently implement a temporary Yonge bikeway in Midtown

In Midtown, before the pandemic, 450,000 people used the Line 1 Yonge subway. During the reopening, if even a fraction of people who used transit opt for cars, our roadways would seize. A safety valve for transit is urgently needed in Midtown, and that means a bikeway on Yonge Street, installed urgently this summer. ActiveTO has shown us that Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of the pandemic recovery

There is ample room for a protected bikeway in Midtown. Our local businesses are already experiencing a surge in people shopping by bike and many businesses and BIAs support this initiative. And as you know from other ActiveTO installations on major transit corridors such as Bloor and Danforth, temporary bikeways afford real-time testing of design in a fraction of the cost and time associated with major studies.

. We ask that Midtown also benefit from ActiveTO innovation with a temporary bikeway on Yonge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Geoff Kettel

Co-Chair, FoNTRA
129 Hanna Road
Toronto, ON, M4G 3N6

Cathie Macdonald

Co-Chair, FoNTRA
57 Duggan Ave
Toronto, ON, M4V 1Y1

CC: Eileen de Villa (Chief Medical Officer of Health), Barbara Gray (General Manager, Transportation Services), Saad Rafi (Office of the Recovery and Rebuild)