



September 28, 2020

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Marilyn Toft
Email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

RE: IE15.11: Request to get Bike Lanes in Midtown along Yonge Street.

Dear Mayor John Tory and Councillors,

This is to indicate our strong support for the Infrastructure and Environment Committee's recommendation to move forward with a bikeway in Midtown on Yonge Street.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has changed the way we live. As the city re-opens, we have concerns about our ability to get around safely, especially along major transit corridors, where physical distancing will be challenging on subways and buses.

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. As Mayor Tory has said, "We need a relief valve for transit." And in Midtown, that means a bikeway on Yonge Street.

A bikeway on Yonge will relieve pressure on the Yonge subway and provide people with a safe alternative to transit, will offer an affordable and healthy way to get around, and will help local businesses recover by bringing more customers to street level. In Midtown, pre-pandemic, fewer than 33% of residents commuted by car – the majority favoured transit and active transportation. A safe, protected bikeway on Yonge will encourage people to transition to cycling and free up capacity on the subway and buses for those who have no alternative.

There is ample room for a protected bikeway in Midtown. CafeTO installations along Yonge would benefit from a protected bikeway providing a safety buffer between patio seating and vehicle traffic. Our local businesses are already experiencing a surge in people shopping by bike. And we 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.

Finally we know from market research that there is widespread and growing public support

for bike lanes in the City. According to a recent Ekos Research poll for The David Suzuki Foundation:

- 84 per cent of respondents supported the construction of protected bike lanes in Toronto and
- 85 per cent agreed that the City needs to do more to protect vulnerable road users, including people who are walking, seniors, kids, and people on bikes.

FoNTRA strongly supports a temporary protected bikeway along Yonge Street from south of St Clair Avenue to north of Lawrence following the complete streets model, with implementation by the second quarter of 2021.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Toronto, Ontario

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Toronto, ON

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

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.