



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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September 29, 2020

Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

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

Cycle Toronto enthusiastically supports motion IE15.11, brought forward by local Councillor Colle and supported by local Councillors Matlow and Layton, calling for Destination Danforth style streetscape improvements, including protected bike lanes, along Yonge Street within their wards by early 2021.

The **local Councillors have heard support** from **over a dozen local residents associations, several local religious institutions**, as well as local business owners and **business improvement areas** (BIAs) for this proposal for streetscape improvements on Yonge. Parallel routes cannot achieve the community's desires on Yonge, which include:

1. **Connectivity** - Yonge directly connects residents to nearby schools, businesses and other destinations within the dense, rapidly-growing neighbourhoods of Midtown. Other streets don't have the same continuity as Yonge.
2. **Transportation options** - as COVID-19 cases rise, providing alternatives to driving and creating a safe and efficient transit relief valve along the Line 1 subway is a priority.
3. **Our "main street": supports local business** - enables local trips for nearby residents, providing access to small and independent businesses, including retail stores, services, and more. A bike lane would further reinforce Yonge's main street character, complement the patios introduced as part of CafeTO, and make it easier for residents to cycle to complete local errands as the pandemic continues.

This broad support follows the massive success of accelerating the cycling network plan across the city through ActiveTO, such as along Danforth whose transformation this summer has featured **on-street patios, protected bike lanes, greenery, on-street parking, and further streetscape improvements**. Danforth is now a safer, healthier, and more vibrant complete street; now midtown Yonge is asking for the same.

Through the pandemic and beyond, residents, employees, and students along the corridor will need safe, healthy, physically distant transportation options for local trips: to run errands and support local businesses, commute to work, or get to school, particularly near the dense nodes at St. Clair, Davisville, and Eglinton.

We urge you to support this locally supported request for streetscape improvements along midtown Yonge in 2021.

Let's keep this momentum going,



Michael Longfield
Interim Executive Director
Cycle Toronto

Cycle Toronto is a non-profit organization representing 3,000 members that is advocating for Toronto to become a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city.

