



July 24, 2020

To: Mayor John Tory
Councillor Mike Layton
Councillor Josh Matlow
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Councillor Mike Colle

Re: Installation of Temporary bikeway on Yonge Street in Midtown

The ABC Residents Association (ABCRA) is a not for profit federally regulated community organization representing the interests of residents in the geographic area bounded by Bloor Street to the South, the CPR tracks to the North, Yonge Street to the East and Avenue Rd to the West.

As ABC and other Residents Associations work to improve the livability and mobility for their members who navigate Yonge Street as their main transportation route to area schools, parks, shops, essential services and places of employment, we are grateful that this issue will receive some long overdue attention.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has changed the way we live. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, our actions today will define our future city, and that bold action is needed now not only to rebuild Toronto, but to advance our goals of road safety, livability and the preservation of health.

In Midtown, before the pandemic, 450,000 people used the Yonge subway line on a daily basis. As Mayor Tory has stated, "We need a safety valve for transit." Therefore, a bikeway on Yonge Street would relieve pressure on the Yonge subway and provide people with a safe alternative to city transportation. It would alleviate concerns about our ability to travel safely, especially along major transit corridors, where physical distancing will be challenging on subways and buses.

As well, the CafeTO installations and the local businesses along Yonge street would benefit from a protected bikeway providing a safety buffer between patio seating and vehicular traffic and

would bring much needed customers into the area to help local businesses recover from the loss of business due to the pandemic.

ActiveTO has shown us that Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of the pandemic recovery.

We therefore respectfully recommend, as part of the city's re-start and recovery program and ActiveTO, that the temporary pilot of the Yonge Street bikeway be undertaken on an urgent basis and provide a vital connection to the newly created Bloor-Danforth bikeway system.

Thank you for your consideration,

ABCRA Board of Directors

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