

councilmeeting

From: Holly Reid <hollyreid@rogers.com>
Sent: September 29, 2020 9:36 PM
To: councilmeeting
Subject: IE 15.11: Support complete streets on Yonge in Midtown



September 29, 2020

Dear Mayor Tory and City Council

Re: **Please support IE 15.11: A complete streets approach for Yonge in Midtown**

Thank you for your continued leadership through the pandemic in working to keep people in Toronto safe. In particular, the implementation of ActiveTO has encouraged people to get out and enjoy their city while keeping physically distant by providing more safe places to cycle. Nowhere has the transformation been more evident than on Danforth Avenue, where a combination of on-street patios, art installations, parking and delivery zones, and complete streets safety measures along with a continuous protected bike lane has attracted visitors from across the city and in substantial numbers. At this month's City Council meeting, you have the opportunity to do something similar for Yonge Street in Midtown.

A bikeway on Yonge has numerous merits – it will relieve pressure on the Yonge subway and provide people with a safe alternative to transit, offer an affordable and healthy way to get around, and 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. But the recommendation from the Infrastructure and Environment committee is about more than a bike lane, it is about transforming Yonge Street in Midtown into a complete street – one that is a vibrant, welcoming and safe space that will be valued by local residents and become a destination for others.

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, as is found on Danforth Avenue. Our local businesses are already experiencing a surge in people shopping by bike thanks to our successful #BikesLoveYonge campaign. Four Business Improvement Areas from south of St. Clair Ave to the north of York Mills Road signed on for the campaign and many, many businesses were eager to participate and grateful for the promotion.

ActiveTO has shown us that Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of the pandemic recovery. 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 and urge you to support IE 15.11: A complete streets approach for Yonge in Midtown.

Respectfully,

Geoff Kettel (Ward 15)

Holly Reid (Ward 15)

Co-chairs, Cycle Don Valley Midtown