



The voice
of our
community

Deer Park Residents Group supports a temporary bikeway on Yonge this summer

July 20, 2020.

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

We ask you to implement a temporary bikeway on Yonge St in Midtown this summer, in consultation with the Deer Park community and responsive to the needs of local residents, businesses and employees.

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 this summer.

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 Deer Park, 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.

On Yonge in Deer Park, there is ample room for a protected bikeway north of Heath St. South of Heath, where Yonge narrows, we hope a creative solution can be found. 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 as you know from other ActiveTO installations on major transit corridors such as Bloor and Danforth, temporary bikeways afford real-time testing of design at a fraction of the cost and time associated with major studies.

ActiveTO has shown us that Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of the pandemic recovery. **We ask that Midtown also benefit from ActiveTO innovation with a temporary bikeway on Yonge.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President

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