



September 27, 2020

### **IE15.11: SUPPORT FOR MIDTOWN YONGE BIKEWAY**

COVID-19 has changed the way we live. As the city reopens, 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." In Midtown, that means a bikeway on Yonge Street as a high priority for health, safety and better mobility.

A bikeway on Yonge will relieve pressure on the Yonge subway and provide a safe alternative to transit, an affordable and healthy way to get around, and recovery for local businesses by bringing more street level customers. 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 subway and bus capacity for those with 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 as you know from other ActiveTO installations on major transit corridors such as Bloor and Danforth, temporary bikeways afford real-time testing of design for a fraction of the cost and time associated with major studies.

ActiveTO has shown how Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of pandemic adjustment and recovery. **We fully support this motion and ask that Midtown also benefit from ActiveTO innovation with a temporary bikeway on Yonge Street, either through the Yonge TOMorrow and/or REImagine Yonge projects, or through a Midtown Yonge focused initiative.**

Thank you for your consideration,

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