



July 20, 2020

Mayor Tory and Executive Committee  
City Hall  
100 Queen St. W. Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: [EX15.1 - Eglinton East Corridor - Priority bus lanes](#)

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee members,

TTCriders is a membership-based organization of transit riders in Toronto.

We commend you for advancing bus-only lanes along the Eglinton East LRT route to November of this year. This is an important improvement for bus riders, but more bus-only lanes and additional bus service is needed sooner. Other cities such as San Francisco and New York are implementing bus-only lanes as a pandemic response to speed up bus trips.

The City of Toronto's pandemic responses such as ActiveTO and CafeTO have demonstrated that City resources can be mobilized quickly and creatively. We urge you to allocate the necessary resources to speed up the study and community consultation needed to make more bus lanes a reality in Fall 2020, when more transit users will return to work and school.

In addition, we strongly recommend that you:

- Implement bus-only lanes as soon as possible on Jane Street, Dufferin Street, Finch Ave East., Steeles Ave West, Lawrence East.
- Implement transit priority measures on other routes that have been most crowded during COVID-19 and that serve neighborhoods hardest hit by COVID-19.
- Add more bus service so that there is enough service for physical distancing.
- Seek community input on design, especially when considering bus stop consolidation.
- Use traffic signal priority.
- Use clear road signage and design elements like paint, bollards, or cones to make it easy for everyone to understand that the lane is for buses only.
- Be friendly to other modes of active transportation like walking and cycling.
- Ensure bus-only lanes are not limited to just during "rush hour".

*TTCriders: A voice for transit users*

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Implementing bus lanes on is a good start but we must do more for the most crowded TTC routes that serve neighbourhoods hit hardest by COVID-19, where residents are more likely to be Black, people of colour, and low income. Improving bus service is an equity issue.

Bus lanes are a cost-effective way to improve transit reliability. The capital costs to implement bus-only lanes on Eglinton East is only \$7.6 million. But bus-only lanes cannot be a means to cut operating costs; additional service must be added to bus lanes to reduce crowding and take advantage of their benefits.

Sincerely,

Shelagh Pizey-Allen  
Executive Director, TTCriders