

Ward 8 Eglinton-Lawrence
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Suite A20
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2



September 17th, 2020

To: Infrastructure and
Environment Committee

Re: Request to get Bike Lanes in Midtown along Yonge Street

SUMMARY:

The ActiveTO initiative has played a vital role in Toronto's recovery and rebuild process, providing city residents of all ages and abilities with new, temporary and permanent, bikeways, which allow them to enjoy fresh air, obtain healthy exercise, and safely get around the city.

The benefit of these cycling facilities must now be expanded to reach other parts of the city. *"Our streets are going to look different in many places in the post-COVID world...we will need more bike infrastructure,"* said Mayor John Tory when launching the ActiveTO initiative, which is *"going to mean more business for shop owners, it's going to mean that we're going to take some of the pressure off our transit system and protect the health of the city."*

Building a resilient city not only means providing clean and safe transportation alternatives during the current pandemic but achieving existing city policies, including the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, the Cycling Network Plan, TransformTO's climate mitigation plan through the reduction of short trips travelled by car, as well as the City's equity and public health initiatives.

Given the aforementioned policy goals, the need to accommodate active transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the strong local community support, it is crucial that we prioritize a temporary bikeway along Yonge Street in Midtown, aligned with TTC's Line 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Infrastructure and Environment Committee request that:

1. The General Manager, Transportation Services, to include, as part of either the 2021 update to the cycling network plan or COVID-19 pandemic cycling network expansion response plan, a temporary protected bikeway along Yonge Street from south of St. Clair Avenue to north of Lawrence Avenue in conjunction with on-street patios, road safety and traffic-calming measures, and other streetscape improvements identified through consultation with local businesses and community groups, following the complete streets approach applied to Danforth Avenue, with implementation by Q2 2021, and iteration and evaluation throughout 2021.

Thank you,

