



Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto

Dear Councillor James Pasternak and committee members,

Re: Councillor Colle's motion for bike lanes on mid-town Yonge St.

We fully support Councillor Mike Colle's motion for a bike lane on Yonge St., which can serve as part of the long-overdue, cross-town, north-south spine of a city cycling network.

Most of the temporary and permanent bike lanes installed under the *ActiveTO* initiative have enjoyed enormous success allowing city residents, including essential workers, to get to work and to other everyday destinations, while allowing other residents to enjoy a simple, healthy outing in a safe environment.

We hope that Councillor Colle's motion will inspire other councillors to step up for their own neighbourhoods, especially ones with many transit-reliant residents in areas that have been hard hit by COVID-19. We understand the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan to be designed as a city-wide initiative, not restricted to particular parts of the city.

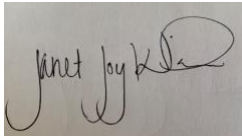
The bicycle, as an affordable, clean, and healthy mode of transportation, offers an alternative to transit, and, as importantly, to cars. We presume you agree that increases in air pollution that may make people more vulnerable to COVID-19, or to exacerbate the climate crisis, must be avoided. The positive trend in the city toward walking, cycling and transit as practical, safe options must be continued, not halted by the pandemic.

The very welcome additions to the city's bike lanes have allowed Toronto to start catching up on its 2016 Bike Plan and road safety policies. By the end of 2020, the city will nonetheless remain 100 km short of the bike lanes envisioned in its 2016 Bike Plan. We urge your committee to ensure that the Bike Plan does not go back into the near-stagnant, pre-pandemic phase (with 2.2 km of bike lanes installed in 2019) **but that the next step, to commence immediately, includes assessment and evaluation, accompanied by community engagement**, along additional, valuable bikeway routes. We recommend that these routes include (but not be limited to) Keele-Weston (serving Mount Dennis and Weston), Don Mills-Overlea-Donlands

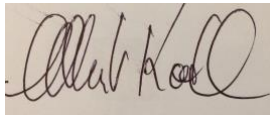
(Flemington and Thorncliffe Parks), Bloor westward (Kipling and Islington), Danforth Ave. eastward (into Scarborough), and the full length of Yonge (to serve as the north-south spine). These bikeways are consistent with the objectives outlined in the community [letter sent to the mayor and council by 120 community](#) groups several months ago, which included the call for 100 km of urgently needed bikeways.

We believe that equity, resilience, and safety must be key features of a modern transportation system built not only for the recovery from today's pandemic but for tomorrow's city.

Sincerely,



Janet Joy Wilson



Albert Koehl

"Mary Ann Neary"

on behalf of [Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition](#)

Email: community.bikeways.toronto@gmail.com

cc. Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto Medical Officer of Health
Chris Murray, City Manager
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Saad Rafi and Dr. David Mowat, Office of Recovery and Rebuild
Jacquelyn Hayward, Transportation Infrastructure Management
Becky Katz, Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Projects Unit