



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215  
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2  
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

November 4, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**RE: IE17.7 – Clearing the Path Towards a Safe and Accessible Winter**

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Each winter, Cycle Toronto calls on the City of Toronto to improve snow removal strategies.

**We enthusiastically endorse the recommendations towards a safe and accessible winter made by Councillor Matlow and Councillor Layton, and urge the Committee to support this motion.**

We cannot wait for the perfect plan and must start taking action now. This could include adding new bike lanes, sidewalks, and trail routes to the current snow clearing list. The city could request current snow clearing contractors that they add more routes to their 2020 snow clearing operations. Like ActiveTO itself, we need to respond rapidly and adapt quickly to make our city safe and accessible this winter. This year, the pandemic heightens the need to make it easier for people to get around using active transportation and improve accessibility. We applaud this motion and it is already well overdue.

The Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR) report approved by Council last month includes numerous recommendations to build back better. The report specifically highlights winter maintenance with recommendation #67: **Develop a Winter City Plan to pursue winter solutions for ActiveTO to increase resilience on a year-round basis**. Further, we echo the need for medium and long term winter plans that could include: environmentally friendly alternatives to salting as a method of de-icing and investigating new equipment including brushes.

Ensuring people can continue to travel within their neighbourhoods and support their local businesses doesn't end when the snow falls. We can be active year around, with only 50 days per year with temperatures below -5 C or with more than 5 centimetres of snow on the ground since 2016.<sup>1</sup> If Torontonians are going to stay outdoors and embrace winter, we'll need the city to improve parks amenities, open public washrooms, offer more shelter services, keep

---

<sup>1</sup> Matt Elliott, "[Thousands of cyclists are hitting Toronto's streets during the pandemic. No one should be surprised,](#)" *Toronto Star*, June 23, 2020.

supporting winter patios and cafes. And taking concrete steps like snow clearing to enable safe active transportation throughout the winter for our social and economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Longfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Longfield

Interim Executive Director  
Cycle Toronto

*Cycle Toronto is a non-profit organization representing 3,000 members that is advocating for Toronto to become a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city.*

