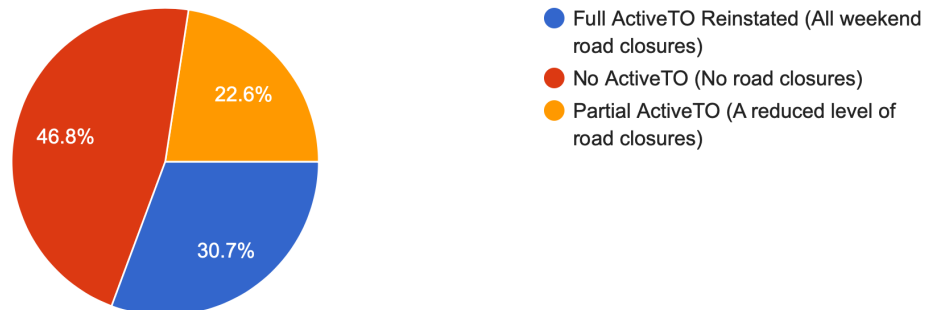




## What is your position on ActiveTO program in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. area in 2021?

616 responses



Dear City of Toronto,

Over two-thirds (69%) of residents surveyed in the Humber Bay Shores neighbourhood do not support the same level of ActiveTO road closures on Lake Shore Blvd. West in 2021 as took place in 2020. 47% of residents do not support any road closure for ActiveTO in 2021 on Lake Shore Blvd. West, while 22% support a reduced level of ActiveTO on this major thoroughfare. Finally, 31% of residents are supportive of the full reinstatement of the 2020 program.

The ActiveTO Lake Shore Blvd. W. program has been a hot topic in the neighbourhood during the past few weeks. The Humber Bay Shores Residents Association ran a 24-hour survey with the residents of Humber Bay Shores (“HBS”) on March 24th 2021, and received over 616 responses, including 169 detailed comments. The HBS community is very engaged with this issue, and wants to make sure that their view is reflected in the city decisions.

The HBS neighbourhood is disproportionately impacted by the ActiveTO Lake Shore Blvd. W. closures. The traffic impact of the 2021 construction projects in the area is even more cause for concern, as echoed by many of the detailed comments we received. The closure of King-Queensway-Queen-Roncesvalles intersection, the suspension of the TTC 501 streetcar route, the lack of viable alternative east-west routes, and the low availability of bus routes on the same few overly-congested arterial roads has created a sense of isolation for our HBS neighbourhood of over 26,000 residents.

Some of the expressed concerns raised by HBS residents who were not supportive of ActiveTO this year were:

- *“With construction on Queensway it is impossible to have road closures from stadium to Windermere.”*
- *“People have to [...] take care of elderly parents [...] Last year I couldn't see my 82 yr old mother”*
- *“There are still weekend workers who need to travel [...] and the 501 ttc is running in traffic on buses.”*



- *"I share summer care of my grandson while he's out of school, & it is IMPOSSIBLE to commute back-and-forth"*
- *"The city is right in not including lakeshore Blvd W due to the construction at Queen and Roncy"*

The survey indicates that 53% of respondents are supportive of some level of ActiveTO program in the neighbourhood. 31% are supportive of a full program, while 22% are open to a reduced version of the program in 2021. Many residents have enjoyed this program and have been able take advantage of it in the neighbourhood. However, any program considerations would require the active consultation of the neighbourhood, sufficient level of enforcement, and added safety measures.

Comments from HBS residents in support of ActiveTO on Lake Shore Blvd. West in 2021 included:

- *"The ActiveTO program works! [...] I also support ensuring the completion of the KQQR project. There needs to be a compromise here"*
- *"I'd be happy with a compromise solution in which half the lanes are closed for ActiveTO, while the other half remain open to cars."*
- *"A compromised decision would be only Sundays closure. This is done in many big cities around the world and seems to work."*
- *"The People of Toronto need this for their mental well-being. It's just a few weekends in the summer."*
- *"It was the best thing for my family to get out and be safe on bikes, or running or walking. I used it every weekend."*

In summary, the majority of the HBSRA's survey respondents indicated that they do not want the same level of closure as last year on Lake Shore Blvd. West. The largest group of respondents is against any closures on Lake Shore Blvd. W., and supports the current decision by the City to exclude Lake Shore Blvd. W. from the ActiveTO program in 2021 due to the major construction projects and road closures in the area. Any compromise solution should include extensive consultation with HBS residents.

Finally, we note that this situation has amplified the need for alternative transportation options for the Humber Bay Shores area. It is a high-density neighbourhood in Toronto with over 26,000 residents, is projected to grow to 39,000 residents with additional development (especially in or around the Christie's site), and continues to lack high-order transit options. We urge the City to accelerate its plans for the realization of the Waterfront West LRT and the Humber Bay Shores GO (Park Lawn GO) station with the province.

We look forward to your response regarding the Lake Shore Blvd. West ActiveTO program in 2021.

Regards,  
Kasra Zokaei  
Humber Bay Shores Residents Association (HBSRA)