



Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
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Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

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Date: October 12, 2021
To: Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: Scarborough Cycling Report

Recommendation:

1. Recommends that City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with, Toronto Parking Authority, to:
 - a) Develop a long-term plan for comprehensive pedestrian cycling network plan for Scarborough, with measurable targets to increase the number of trips taken by walking, cycling and transit, and including an expansion of Bike Share stations throughout the Scarborough by 2030.
 - b) Report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in the first quarter of 2022 on an initial public consultation process, and an implementation strategy for the plan described in Part 1 above.

Background

Many residents have voiced their concerns and need for better walking and cycling infrastructure in Scarborough. Most of Scarborough's major rights-of-way are approximately 36m wide providing ample space to install bike lanes without removing traffic lanes or encroaching on adjacent properties. Scarborough also has access to numerous ravine networks and corridors ideal for off-road trails.

Given the robust opportunities in Scarborough, suburbs are still often overlooked for detailed, intricate cycling networks. Between 2016 and 2018, the City created approximately 60km of cycling infrastructure, however Scarborough did not benefit from this, other than renewal of existing routes.

The Toronto Star article, "Attempts at building a cycling network in Scarborough have been an 'abject failure,' harming resident's health," outlines "The Scarborough Opportunity" report by UTSC on the dangers of the lack of bike infrastructure in Scarborough and how the City can tap into Scarborough's potential to become a "cycling superpower"

"The Scarborough Opportunity" report highlights the negative impacts on Scarborough residents due to the lack of walking and cycling infrastructure and its continued suffering from an automobile-dependent form.

The absence of a proper pedestrian network is resulting in an increase in car usage, pollution, congestion and on top of this we are seeing negative impacts on resident health because many are not walking or cycling.

I am requesting that the City of Toronto develop a long-term plan for comprehensive pedestrian cycle network plan for Scarborough to increase the number of trips taken by walking, cycling and transit and to include an expansion of Bike Share stations throughout the suburbs by 2030.

The Toronto Star article, "[Attempts at building a cycling network in Scarborough have been an 'abject failure' harming residents' health. A new report shows how that can be fixed.](#)" by Ben Spur can be read [here](#).

[The Scarborough Opportunity: A Comprehensive Walking and Cycling Network report by UTSC's Andre Sorensen and team, can be found online here.](#)

Sincerely,
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City of Toronto Councillor
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