

**Leaside Residents Association Incorporated**  
**1601 Bayview Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 43582, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3B0**

DATE: March 16, 2021

TO: Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
March 23, 2021 meeting

RE: Northern Extension and Pilot of Yonge Midtown ActiveTO

Dear Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

I am writing on behalf of the Leaside Residents Association (LRA) in support of a temporary pilot and the northern extension of a protected bikeway on Yonge Street and on Duplex Avenue, which you will be debating on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our previous letter in support, dated August 13, 2020, is attached separately.

As the City of Toronto continues to seek what Mayor Tory has previously referred to as “a safety valve for transit,” we think that a bikeway continuing north to Lawrence Avenue would be of great benefit, to our area of Leaside in particular and to the City in general.

We urge you to approve this project, as a pilot, in order to assess its positive impact and provide more information for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Burtin Fripp and Geoff Kettel,  
Co-Presidents,  
Leaside Residents Association

Cc's:

Mayor Tory  
Councillor McKelvie  
Councillor Robinson  
Councillor Layton  
Councillor Matlow  
Councillor Colle  
ActiveTO

# Leaside Residents Association Incorporated

1601 Bayview Avenue

P.O. Box 43582, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3B0

August 13, 2020

RE: **Bikeway on Yonge in Midtown**

Dear Mayor John Tory and Councillor Jaye Robinson,

**The Leaside Residents Association strongly supports the implementation of a bikeway on Yonge Street in Midtown this summer.**

COVID-19 has changed the way we live. As the city re-opens, we have concerns about people's ability to get around safely, especially along major transit corridors, where physical distancing will be challenging on subways and buses.

In Midtown, before the pandemic, 450,000 people used the Line 1 Yonge subway. During the reopening, if even a fraction of people who used transit opt for cars, our roadways will seize. A bikeway on Yonge will relieve pressure on the Yonge subway and provide people with a safe alternative to transit, will offer an affordable and healthy way to get around, and will help local businesses recover by bringing more customers to street level. A Yonge bikeway in Midtown would benefit Leaside residents who travel to downtown and midtown Yonge destinations.

In Midtown, pre-pandemic, the majority of residents travelled by transit and active transportation, rather than by car. A safe, protected bikeway on Yonge will encourage people to transition to cycling and free up capacity on the subway and buses for those who have no alternative. There is ample room for a protected bikeway in Midtown. CafeTO installations along Yonge would benefit from a protected bikeway providing a safety buffer between patio seating and vehicle traffic. Local businesses are already experiencing a surge in people shopping by bike. And as you know from other ActiveTO installations on major transit corridors such as Bloor and Danforth, temporary bikeways afford real-time testing of design in a fraction of the cost and time associated with major studies.

ActiveTO has shown us that Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of the pandemic recovery. **We ask that Midtown including Leaside benefit from ActiveTO innovation with a bikeway on Yonge.** As Mayor Tory has said, "We need a safety valve for transit." And in Midtown, that means a bikeway on Yonge Street, to be installed urgently.

Thank you for your consideration,

Geoff Kettel and Carol Burtin Fripp  
Co-Presidents

c.c. Councillor Josh Matlow  
Councillor Mike Colle  
Councillor Mike Layton  
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health  
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Saad Rafi, Office of Rebuild and Recovery  
Dr. David Mowat, Office of Rebuild and Recovery  
ActiveTO Toronto  
Residents Associations