

March 16, 2021

IE20.12 - QuORA Supports Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot

COVID-19 has changed the way we live. As the city re-opens, we have concerns about our 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 would seize. As Mayor Tory has said, "We need a relief valve for transit." And in Midtown, that means a bikeway on Yonge Street this summer.

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. In Midtown, pre-pandemic, fewer than 33% of residents commuted by car – the majority favoured transit and active transportation. 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.

ActiveTO has shown how Toronto can quickly implement innovative solutions for active transportation as part of pandemic adjustment and recovery.

QuORA supports ActiveTO innovations in Midtown with a temporary bikeway and patios on Yonge Street from Bloor to Davisville. We strongly recommend an extension north of Davisville Ave as part of initial installation as the Davisville terminus does not adequately provide safe connections to residents just north of Davisville.

While Metrolinx and residential construction understandably prohibit a full extension to Eglinton Ave and beyond, there still remain safe opportunities for an extension to a local intersection between Soudan Ave and Davisville Ave that would provide connections to neighbourhood streets and local businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Ticoll President Quantum Owners & Residents Association