

March 21, 2021

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
City of Toronto

Re: IE: 20.12: ActiveTO - Lessons Learned from 2020 and Next Steps for 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Parkdale High Park Bikes, which is the cycling advocacy group for Ward 4 and is affiliated with Cycle Toronto. Our members have reacted with disappointment with regards to the recommendation from city staff that the Lakeshore West closure not be included in the ActiveTO programme for the summer of 2021. The report itself documents the fact that Lakeshore West was by far the most popular road closure in 2020. Many residents of our area joined thousands of others in enjoying a safe, leisurely bike ride along Lakeshore Blvd during summer weekends last year. I myself often cycled along the Lakeshore East and Bayview closures as well, but the crowds that I observed were never nearly as large as those along Lakeshore West.

I understand the stated reason for this recommendation: that east-west traffic patterns thorough our ward and davenport will be impacted by the extended closure of the intersection at Queen/King/Roncesvalles. This project is an important one, and from our point of view, it improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists that cross over the Gardiner on the bridge to the lakefront. I will note that the design is still not ideal for cyclists in that the bike lane along the Queensway abruptly cuts off west of the intersection.

Nevertheless, with spring having sprung, and the already significant crowding that one can observed along the MGT this weekend, it is apparent that there will be huge demand for the open spaces along the western lakefront this summer.

There is some language in the report that suggest that alternate east west routes might be considered. Would the committee consider opening up two lanes of Lakeshore along this stretch. This would provide recreational possibilities similar to last year while providing for some flow of east-west motorized traffic that would offset the effect of construction.

Sincerely,



Jun Nogami  
Ward Captain  
Parkdale High Park Bikes  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParkHPBikes>