



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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March 23, 2021

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE20.13 Cycling Network Plan - 2021 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - Q1 Update

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

While Cycle Toronto supports implementation of the proposed bikeways scheduled for upgrades to cycle tracks and the new bikeways that will provide useful local connections, we would like to see more focus on growing the cycling network than on a plan that primarily serves to renew existing infrastructure.

Within this plan we are particularly supportive of cycling improvements that can begin to equitably address transportation needs of Torontonians outside the downtown core, including, among others:

- Birmingham Street
- Crescent Town Road
- Cummer Avenue
- Thorncliffe Park Drive

Aligning City Council committed goals with new cycling infrastructure implementation rate

While Cycle Toronto is supportive of these 2021 projects, it is not keeping pace with the needs of people that currently ride bikes nor the latent demand from people who might ride a bike if they could do so safely. We ask for an accelerated rate of implementation and to determine what resources Transportation Services needs to implement its own plans to get there. Just over 2 lane-km of new, permanent bikeways per quarter as proposed will not enable the City of Toronto to meet its TransformTO, Vision Zero, or Cycling Network Plan completion targets. In addition, the health and economic recovery goals recommended by the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild's COVID-19: Impacts and Opportunities Report identified building bike lanes as a key factor in building economic resilience post-pandemic.

To guarantee the long-term health and well-being of Torontonians, we cannot rely on upgrades and temporary installations alone; we need to invest in permanent, equitably distributed growth to our cycling network that includes community design and consultation. The pandemic has highlighted many issues with Toronto's transportation infrastructure and these need to be tackled in order to prepare for an equitable and just future that sees us through the climate and public health emergencies we're facing.

We ask that city staff produce ambitious annual targets for cycling infrastructure implementation that align with achieving the road safety, environmental, health, and equity goals that City Council has committed to.

Sincerely,



Keagan Gartz
Executive Director
Cycle Toronto

Cc: Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Toronto Transportation Services

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported non-profit organization that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.

