



March 21, 2021

Dear Councillor Colle, Councillor Layton, Councillor McKelvie, Councillor Minnan-Wong, Councillor Pasternak, and Councillor Peruzza.

We are members of 32 Spokes, a local advocacy group in Beaches-East York. We love biking and work to promote active transportation and to make cycling safer in our community. We are writing to you in support of expanding ActiveTO initiatives for 2021.

RE: IE 20.12 Lessons Learned from 2020 and Next Steps for 2021

In 2020, we saw tens of thousands of people access ActiveTO routes across the city¹. The ActiveTO initiative demonstrated it was an agile and effective means to fulfill the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild's recommendation for supporting active transportation and making Toronto a more resilient city. It provided, and continues to provide, crucial lifelines to those wishing to travel safely across the city during the pandemic. We are also especially encouraged by the amendments to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto that specifically identify policies to support bicycles for transportation, emphasizing continuous and connected cycling routes². Through ActiveTO, we saw our streets transform and become accessible to people of all ages, including children. Observing families with small children bike on Danforth Avenue, once a dangerous and terrifying route for cycling, is awe-inspiring and hopeful for more active transportation options for people of all ages. We support continuing to move in this direction, making our streets safer for and more accessible to people in our community and across the city of Toronto.

For 2021, we would like to see ActiveTO expand both across the City and within our neighborhoods of Beaches-East York. ActiveTO provides the opportunity to pilot and evaluate the connections to continue improving our currently fragmented cycling infrastructure. Specifically, we see the benefit of the Danforth ActiveTO infrastructure and would like these improvements made permanent in 2021. We would like to see Danforth Ave expanded beyond

¹ <https://www.toronto.ca/news/data-shows-activeto-weekend-road-closures-make-room-for-thousands-of-people-to-enjoy-physical-activity-along-torontos-most-popular-trails/>

² <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.PH13.3>

Dawes Road to Victoria Park and into Scarborough. The improvements to Dundas St East between Broadview Ave and River St were equally beneficial. It is an undeniable improvement to the safety of cycling in Toronto, enhancing a crucial link in our cycling infrastructure.

In Beaches-East York, we are happy to see the Transportation Services' staff recommendation to have ActiveTO continue on Lake Shore Blvd East for 2021. We would also like to recommend an extension to the Woodbine bike lane for greater connectivity to existing bike infrastructure. This would give more people safe access to the parks surrounding The Beach neighbourhood and the stores along Queen St East. However, we are also disappointed to see that Transportation Services is recommending that Lakeshore West ActiveTO should not be continued in 2021 due to local construction. We urge you to reconsider this recommendation given how popular and well-used this stretch of Lakeshore West was during ActiveTO 2020.

We were also most disappointed to read that Transportation Services staff recommend that the Quiet Streets program need not be continued for 2021. With Toronto on the cusp of the third wave of COVID-19 and with the modelling of increasing infections shown with the variants of interest, we feel Quiet Streets are needed now more than ever and the barriers more diligently overseen by city staff. In addition to the streets included in the Quiet Streets program from 2020 in Beaches-East York, we would like to see an expansion to streets that can connect the Dundas Bike Lanes to the Boardwalk and the Martin Goodman Trail.

RE: IE 20.13 Cycling Network Plan - 2021 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - First Quarter Update

There is little additional cycling infrastructure listed for installation for Beaches-East York in 2021, but we were most pleased to see that an upgrade of the Crescent Town Road bike lane to a cycle track is included in the plan. Although not included at this time, we would also be in full support of an extension of ActiveTO on Danforth from Dawes Road to Victoria Park.

In closing, we feel that all the elements of ActiveTO in 2020 were critical in supporting the City during an unprecedented crisis. We want all Torontonians to have access to a safe outlet for physical activity to improve mental well-being. We saw this benefit during the early uncertain and stressful days of the pandemic. As a City, we need ActiveTO to return and be expanded in 2021 to build on all we achieved last year, using active transportation to create a more resilient and healthier city.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Neary
Chairperson, 32 Spokes