

From: [Holly Reid](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Cc: [Mayor Tory](#); [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Barbara Gray](#); [active_TO](#); [Cycle Toronto](#)
Subject: Comments for 2021.IE20.12 on March 23, 2021 Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Date: March 22, 2021 5:10:33 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 23, 2021 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on item 2021.IE20.12, ActiveTO - Lessons Learned from 2020 and Next Steps for 2021

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:



March 22, 2021

Re: IE20.12 – ActiveTO - Lessons Learned from 2020 and Next Steps for 2021

To: Jennifer McKelvie, Chair, and members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Cycle Don Valley Midtown is the ward advocacy group for Cycle Toronto in Ward 15 and Ward 16. In 2020, ActiveTO was a huge success for Toronto, providing people with additional space to move about safely during the pandemic and practice physical distancing. We greatly appreciate the City's efforts, particularly those of Transportation Services, for the design and implementation of the ActiveTO program. Looking ahead to 2021, we submit our comments for your consideration.

ActiveTO - Temporary bikeways

Overlea Blvd is the only 2020 temporary bikeway proposed under ActiveTO that was not installed and remains "under consideration." We ask that this project be moved from "under consideration" to immediate community consultation, with specific attention to the Charles H. Hiscott Bridge, which is dangerous for people walking or riding a bike and has been a persistent safety concern for the Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park communities as it is the only link between these Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and the only route for the thousands of students who attend Valley Park Middle School and Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute.

Yonge Street

We are pleased to see a **Complete Street pilot coming to Yonge Street from Bloor Street to Davisville Avenue**, complementing curbside patios, streetscape improvements and parking with a protected bikeway in line with the successful transformation of Danforth Avenue in 2020. We would like to see this pilot expanded north to Soudan Avenue, extending the benefits of the Complete Streets pilot to many more residents and many more businesses, especially the restaurants in the area participating in CafeTO. In addition, we ask that the City begin community consultation to expand the pilot north of Eglinton, where strong support for a complete streets investment already exists among businesses and residents.

ActiveTO - Major road openings

In 2020, the opening of Lakeshore Blvd West, Lakeshore Blvd East and Bayview Avenue south of Rosedale Valley Road attracted thousands of people of all ages and abilities to enjoy a safe space to ride, walk, wheel and run without conflict with motor vehicles. Families, in particular, found a space where adults and children could ride their bikes together and feel safe.

Based on the success of the major road openings in 2020 and the continuation of the pandemic, we would have expected the program to be expanded and not contracted in 2021. We ask that the decision to not open Lake Shore Blvd West, which was the most popular of these destinations with as many as 19,000 people taking advantage of the closure on weekends, be revisited by Transportation Services to investigate how to continue this major road opening on weekends while completing the planned construction on nearby roadways.

We would also like the City to explore other options outside of the downtown core for this program. Specifically, we would like to see weekend closures for the benefit of midtown residents as it is often not practical for midtown families to get downtown in order to participate in ActiveTO's major road openings.

Other comments

In addition, we fully support the following requests from Cycle Toronto:

- Extend Destination Danforth to Victoria Park Avenue and a motion to make the pilot permanent in 2021
- The Bayview ActiveTO project, as an alternative to the Lower Don Trail while it is reconstructed, be adopted
- At least one ActiveTO style Complete Street project in Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke for each year going forward with consultation and input from community stakeholders
- A commitment to align the rate of permanent infrastructure implementation each year with the City's road safety, environmental, and health goals

The City has made tremendous strides during the pandemic in rolling out these innovative programs and safe spaces to allow people to enjoy our city, support local businesses and move about while practicing physical distancing. These programs are important for the physical and mental wellbeing of Torontonians and can further the City's goals for climate mitigation, active transportation and main street revitalization.

Respectfully,

Geoff Kettel (Ward 15)
Richard Nelson (Ward 16)
Holly Reid (Ward 15)
Najia Zewari (Wards 15 & 16)
Co-chairs, Cycle Don Valley Midtown

Cc. Mayor John Tory
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
ActiveTO
Cycle Toronto