



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

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Toronto is supportive of the ActiveTO program. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Toronto should implement additional infrastructure and programs that support active transportation across the city.

#### **ActiveTO - Cycling Network Expansion**

##### **ActiveTO + CafeTO along Yonge**

Cycle Toronto is supportive of a 2021 installation of an ActiveTO and CafeTO 'Complete Street' along midtown Yonge. Local residents, businesses, and community groups are very supportive of seeing their main street transform this spring just as Danforth Avenue transformed into 'Destination Danforth' in 2020.

While implementation along Yonge from Bloor Street to Davisville Avenue is a good start, it will be imperative that consultation, analysis, design, and implementation continue further north as soon as possible to equitably support residents and businesses along the entire corridor as they look to recover from the pandemic.

##### **ActiveTO multi-use path along Bayview**

The extension of the Bayview Avenue ActiveTO multi-use path will fill an important link in the active transportation network while the Lower Don Trail is under construction.

Cycle Toronto fully supports creating a safe walking and cycling detour along Bayview.

##### **Extending Destination Danforth**

The success of the Destination Danforth Complete Street pilot is already apparent. Cycling on the ActiveTO bikeway has increased dramatically during the pandemic, CafeTO patios

have been a lifeline for local businesses, and the additional work on the streetscape has supported a more vibrant Danforth than ever before.

Cycle Toronto is calling for the Destination Danforth pilot to extend east to Victoria Park Avenue in 2021 and for the pilot to become a permanent feature this year.

### **ActiveTO along Overlea**

Ten months have passed since the Overlea Boulevard ActiveTO project was announced alongside the rest of the 2020 ActiveTO program. In that time, the project has remained 'Under Consideration' without any public explanation or consultation. It is a glaring inequity that other ActiveTO projects across the city have been delivered, and more ActiveTO projects are being announced, all while the communities of Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park have been left behind. There is strong community support to address crowding, safety, and other local priorities on the bridge during the pandemic and beyond.

Cycle Toronto is joining their call for ActiveTO project along Overlea to meaningfully advance so that communities across the city are being equitably supported with the space to safely move around during the pandemic.

### **ActiveTO Complete Streets throughout Toronto**

The success of the ActiveTO program, especially through the implementation of Complete Streets that support the many priorities of local communities, needs to be equitably expanded throughout the city.

Cycle Toronto is calling for 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.

### **ActiveTO - Weekend Major Road Openings to Active Transportation**

#### **Lake Shore Boulevard East and Bayview Avenue**

Cycle Toronto is supportive of these locations and recommends extending the routes.

#### **Lake Shore Boulevard West**

This route was by far the most popular of the weekend ActiveTO program, with an average of over 22,000 people safely enjoying the waterfront every weekend, and 25% reporting these routes helped them to start riding a bike or to begin riding again. These are incredible numbers. While there are challenges associated with construction schedules, there are solutions to these challenges. It took a bold vision and creativity from city staff to implement this pandemic response.

Similarly, Cycle Toronto is calling for bold, creative solutions for keeping Lake Shore West



open to active transportation this year. Alternative options could include implementing weekend road openings on some weekends instead of none. A long term approach could be implementing a pilot that reallocates some of the existing road space (currently 6-8 car travel lanes) to spaces for active modes of transportation, similar to the ActiveTO installation on Bayview Avenue. This approach would significantly alleviate crowding on the narrow multi-use trail and could add appreciable benefits to those looking for a quieter, cleaner, and more pleasant experience when enjoying our waterfront. It would also create a vision for what the future of Lake Shore Blvd West could be.

### **Other areas in the city**

Cycle Toronto has been calling for an expansion of the weekend ActiveTO program to better serve residents across the city. Cycle Toronto has suggested routes such as Allen Road, Black Creek Drive, Danforth Avenue, Highway 27, and McNicoll Avenue.

### **ActiveTO - Quiet Streets**

While the Quiet Streets program had mixed results and is not recommended to continue in 2021, we hope that this program helped to inform where permanent measures could be implemented. Cycle Toronto supports permanent traffic calming measures, as well as reducing barriers to community-led traffic calming interventions.

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.*

