



April 20, 2021

Toronto and East York Community Council
City of Toronto

Re: Comments on TE24.54 Road Alteration – Woodbine Avenue

Dear Councillor Bailão, Councillor Bradford, Councillor Cressy, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Layton, Councillor Matlow, Councillor Perks, and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam,

We are members of 32 Spokes, a local bike advocacy group in Beaches-East York. We love biking. We care about safe streets and the safety of our communities. **We support changes to Woodbine Avenue that support a complete streets model and that make the road safe for all road users, especially the most vulnerable. We support changes that increase visibility of the road design and we support the proposed speed limit reduction to 40 km/h.**

However, we agree with city staff and do not feel that the other proposed changes in the road alteration report will make the road safer, especially for cyclists.

Biking is an important activity—for transportation but also for recreation. ActiveTO has transformed our streets, making many routes safer for people biking and also active transportation options more easily available to Toronto residents. Through ActiveTO, we saw Dundas Street East (Broadview to River) become safer with protected bike lanes and Danforth Avenue become a destination with its wonderful, connected bike lanes. Woodbine is an important connecting route in Beaches-East York and we would like a similar treatment on Woodbine so it can become an even safer and more connected route.

For example, we feel the bike lanes and sharrows between Queen Street East and Kingston Road are still not safe for cyclists. We can see that the protection offered for the lanes north of Kingston Road are achieving a safer road-scape and think this would make the bike lanes safer between Queen and Kingston. **We kindly ask and recommend that protected bike lanes be considered for this section. We also recommend connecting the Woodbine bike lanes to the Martin Goodman Trail to make it safer and easier for cyclists to connect to and from the most southern connections.**

We think the assessment of signal timing is a good idea. We encourage an assessment of Woodbine volume to explore opportunities to reduce it, perhaps by shifting it to other surrounding roads where it makes sense, such as Coxwell Avenue. If Woodbine were less of a destination for people simply getting to Kingston Road or Gerrard Street east, this may help.

We appreciate the update on Woodbine Avenue and staff efforts to address the concerns of our community. We ask for the committee to support further improvements through protection and other improvements that support a complete street model.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mackey
On behalf of 32 Spokes