

RE: CYCLING NETWORK PLAN

2022 CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION – First Quarter and 2021
Active TO Cycling Network Expansion Project Updates

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MAYOR
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ActiveTO Midtown Complete Street Pilot --committee on March 29, 2022: IEC agenda item IE28.7

As the Chair of the Church Council at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1585 Yonge Street), I am writing to officially convey our ongoing concerns about the bike and traffic lanes on Yonge Street in front of the church.

Without consultation, the City installed bike lanes and redirected the traffic lanes in front of the church. The result has significantly affected both our accessible entrances to the building and has made it difficult if not impossible to drop elderly or disabled congregants in front of the Church. We have a significant number of seniors with disabilities who attend Sunday services on a weekly basis. To impede their access begins to infringe on the core values of inclusivity, safety and accessibility that the city of Toronto aspires to. It is now impossible to drop off a disabled or elderly passenger without blocking ALL northbound traffic. Anyone exiting or entering a car on the driver's side is in serious danger. Drivers also blare their car horns at stopping vehicles.

These traffic changes have also seriously impacted weddings and funerals. Again, when unloading or loading a casket from/into a hearse ALL northbound traffic will be blocked. Wedding vehicles are similarly affected. Safe access to the front entrance remains problematic.

Economical, fast and safe solutions would include the following:

Remove the left-hand turn lane southbound to Heath Street East and install a northbound 50-meter-long curbside drop off/pick up lane directly in front of the church that would be safe and accessible. Bike lanes will also be accommodated.

With this done the current Wheel Trans drop off and pick up area could be shifted to this new northbound pick-up lane.

Another solution [in addition to the above, perhaps] would be to make a cut into the sidewalk to accommodate a pull-in area for temporary stops and drop-offs.

With the removal of all parking spots on the east side of Yonge between Heath and Glen Elm, it would benefit us immensely to allow weekend or Sunday parking on the south side of Glen Elm, where all parking is currently restricted.

Parking should also be restored in front of the church Park on northbound Yonge, similar to parking in front of the York School.

We won't mention the problems with snow clearing this winter, but this was an accessibility issue.

Please be assured that **Yorkminster Park is not against bike lanes** or reorganized parking. What we wish to resolve is the danger these changes have created for those attending most church services, programs and activities (wedding and funerals) along with other events (concerts).

Thank you for your consideration and consultation. **We have shared goals when it comes to community inclusion, accessibility and safety.**

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