



Date: Tuesday, April 5, 22

**Absolutely Inc.**

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To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Active TO Midtown Pilot for Bicycle Lanes

Having been in business for 33 years on Yonge Street, in three different locations, we have never experienced such an adverse effect on our retail business, as that caused by the Active TO bike lane pilot project. A sample of the detrimental effects on our small business are listed below:

- The loss of sales due to customers refusing to come and shop at the store, as the lanes obstruct access and parking is impossible, as side streets are blocked with traffic. We've surveyed all our customers and not ONE has been a cyclist stopping to shop.
- Delivery and transport services refusing to drop off merchandise and goods, as access is not possible due to the bike lane. This has impeded our ability to conduct business and to receive our retail goods, as we do not have a loading dock. Our staff's safety is being jeopardized, as they have to run out onto the street to receive merchandise.
- Customers are being driven out of the area because of inaccessibility. What was once a thriving pedestrian oriented neighborhood is now a gridlocked traffic nightmare.

The pilot project's stated goals were to:

- 1) Improve Road Safety
- 2) Create a Destination
- 3) Provide mobility options
- 4) Provide environmental benefits

In all cases, the opposite is true, the safety of the pedestrian population has been adversely effected and cyclists have hit some people. The charm of the area has been damagingly effected, as Yonge Street is one long traffic jam. The mobility of the residents, merchants and pedestrians have all been negatively effected, particularly when it comes to emergency services. There has been no environmental benefit; instead the traffic has led to increased carbon emissions due to idling vehicles.

This bike lane pilot project has been an unmitigated failure. A poorly conceived and executed concept that has benefited no one, except for food delivery, e-bikes and e-scooter users, and very few cyclists for an extremely short season.

Yours sincerely,

Viki Mansell  
Owner Absolutely Inc.