

May 25, 2022

To Infrastructure and Environment Committee Chair and Members:

Re: Revisiting ActiveTO Interventions on Lake Shore Boulevard West

At the onset of the first pandemic summer, Council acted decisively to open up parts of our roads that have been traditionally reserved for moving a large number of cars and gave this space back over to the public for recreational use. The scenes were historic. Thousands of residents flocked to Lake Shore Boulevard West to safely ride along the City's waterfront for kilometres, getting to safely experience something that had rarely been provided by the City in its history. A truly open, safe and welcoming environment for people of all ages and abilities to travel along Toronto's expansive waterfront.

Unfortunately, 2 years on, these interventions have ceased on Lake Shore Boulevard West and the roads have been re-consumed by drivers. The conditions remain unsafe for many travelling on the Martin Goodman Trail that runs alongside the road which is often crowded and unable to meet the needs and demands placed on it on the warm days of our Spring and Summer. Recently, the City experienced another death along this stretch which should have been fully preventable. Dangerous situations like these keep people from trying out active transportation options and reinforces for many that the area which should be able to support recreational activity is unsafe.

The City of Toronto must continue to act as a leader in making active transportation and access to our non-traditional public spaces a priority. We must act to maintain the interventions which were headline grabbing and continue to provide this amenity to residents in Toronto. With warm weather quickly approaching (and in many aspects, already arrived) we cannot delay a review of the potential to revisit and re-establish the ActiveTO intervention on Lake Shore Boulevard West which was so beloved.

Recommendation:

1. Infrastructure and Environment Committee request the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to the next meeting of Council on:
 - a. The potential for full road closures on Lake Shore Boulevard West on weekends this summer to continue to provide people of all ages and abilities access to the waterfront safely without noise and traffic pollution and any constrains or barriers to closures, and
 - b. The potential for reducing lanes on Lake Shore Boulevard West to accommodate the pressures on public spaces, while fulfilling the intent of ActiveTO with protected recreational opportunities

Thank you,



Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 11, University-Rosedale