



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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January 10, 2022

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE27.6 Review of City of Toronto Golf Courses

Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee members,

Cycle Toronto is supportive of City staff recommendations in IE27.6 - Review of City of Toronto Golf Courses to move forward with developing site-specific plans for new multi-use trail connections in five City golf courses (Dentonia Park, Don Valley, Humber Valley, Scarlett Woods, and Tam O'Shanter).

Presently, the lack of active transportation connections to and through these golf courses mean they are inaccessible to many Torontonians despite being large public outdoor spaces.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became very clear how important it was to Torontonians' physical and mental health to have access to outdoor space. Many took to cycling, running, walking, skating, or other forms of active transportation, especially along multi-use trails.

These golf courses interrupt very popular multi-use trails such as the Taylor-Massey Creek Trail, the West Highland Creek Trail, and Earl Bales Park multi-use trail. The golf courses also impede connections to trails such as the Humber River Trail and Black Creek Trail. Often, the only option for trail users to continue on their journey is to divert around the golf courses onto arterial roadways where vulnerable road users can be killed or seriously injured in collisions.

Furthermore, most of the City golf courses were identified as 'High' on an 'Equity-Deserving Index' when considering nearby populations of low-income people, visible minorities, recent immigrants, or Aboriginal populations (as defined by Statistics Canada). Greater access to the green space and safe mobility afforded by these golf courses through new multi-use trail connections would significantly improve quality of life for these local populations.

City staff are recommending continuing to offer golf at all of the City's courses while providing complementary uses that benefit local residents, including safe multi-use trail connections through the golf courses (a top priority for the public identified during the consultation process).

It is imperative that the City move forward in developing site-specific plans that include safe multi-use trail connections for these golf courses, in consultation with the local and broader community, to ensure that these public spaces can be better enjoyed by all Torontonians.

Sincerely,



Keagan Gartz
Executive Director

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charitable organization that works to make Toronto a healthy, safe and vibrant cycling city for all. We are focused on advocacy, education and encouragement, as we work to shape policy and infrastructure, and build community to transform our city's cycling culture.

