

March 27, 2022

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Matthew Green
email: iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE28.7 - Cycling Network Plan - 2022 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - First Quarter and 2021 ActiveTO Cycling Network Expansion Project Updates

Dear Councillor McKelvie, Chair, and Members, Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle55+ is an initiative of Cycle Toronto Midtown and Cycle Don Valley Midtown to encourage older adults to rediscover the joy of cycling and bring their voices to the advocacy table to ensure cycling in the city is safe, equitable and fun. **We strongly support City staff's recommendation to continue the Yonge Complete Street pilot to July 2023 and we ask that the pilot be extended north to connect with the new complete street and transit line at Eglinton Avenue.**

The ActiveTO Midtown Complete Street Pilot – Intercept Survey Report prepared for the City by The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) provides preliminary results that indicate the pilot's success on a variety of key measures. While there are plenty of positive results, there are two metrics in particular that we find incredibly encouraging – there has been an increase in older adults cycling post installation (ages 51 - 64 increased from 17% pre-installation to 25% post installation) and more women are cycling (up to 35% post installation from 33% pre-installation). Both these measures reflect a greater sense of perceived safety among cyclists after the protected bike lanes were installed. We anticipate that the additional time to collect data and make improvements along the corridor will only see more people discover the convenience, safety and pleasure of riding a bike on Yonge Street.

We live in an aging society. Providing the supports and encouragement to help people remain active as they age provides valuable benefits. When that activity includes active transportation, not only is physical health and mental well-being enhanced, but climate mitigation is advanced through a reduction in travel dependent on fossil fuels. The Yonge Complete Street pilot provides the protection necessary for encouraging more older adults to cycle and connecting the bikeway to the new complete street on Eglinton will offer more destinations to reach by bike.

We ask that you continue to support the complete street pilot on Yonge and continue to make the improvements and extensions necessary to encourage more midtowners, including older adults, to embrace active transportation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jacky Kennedy, Ward 8
Marjorie Nichol, Ward 8
Holly Reid, Ward 15
Founding members, Cycle55+

C.c. Councillor Jaye Robinson, Ward 15
Councillor Josh Matlow, Ward 12
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Cycle Toronto
ActiveTO

Cycle55+ – Because Cycling Never Gets Old