



March 28, 2022

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: Walk Toronto

Re: IE28.7 - 2021 ActiveTO Cycling Network Expansion Project Updates

Dear councillors,

Walk Toronto strongly supports the continuation of the ActiveTO cycling network project on Yonge Street from Bloor Street to Davisville Avenue.

While most attention is paid to the impact on cyclists, the separated bike lanes have also been a great benefit to those who walk along Yonge Street.

By providing a buffer between car traffic and the sidewalk, the bike lanes have made walking along Yonge Street much more appealing. The sidewalks are relatively narrow for the amount of foot traffic Yonge Street receives, and having a buffer from traffic makes using those sidewalks far more pleasant.

The planters installed as part of the program have also enhanced the walking experience, given that the narrow sidewalks limit the amount of greenery that can be installed on them. Painted art on the pavement can also contribute to the overall walking experience.

At the same time, narrowing the street has calmed traffic somewhat, making the street feel much safer for people on foot as they walk along Yonge and cross at intersections.

These improvements to the walking environment were confirmed by a [survey](#) of over 1,145 people using this part of Yonge Street, which revealed significant improvement in the perception of safety and comfort for people walking along Yonge Street, and an increase in the number of people walking in this area. The majority of respondents to the survey were pedestrians, and of those, 77% agreed that the program had improved that part of Yonge Street. Meanwhile, 8% of respondents said they shifted to walking in the area from driving or taking transit after the implementation of the ActiveTO pilot project.

It is also well established that people who are walking are more likely to shop at retail locations and dine at restaurants along the way, so increasing the walking appeal of this part of Yonge Street will also benefit the economic vibrancy of this area.

The ActiveTO cycling network pilot has had a positive transformative effect on Yonge Street between Bloor and Davisville, making it an attractive and vibrant place to walk and to visit. We call on the committee to continue with the pilot project and hope that it will eventually become permanent.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid

On behalf of Walk Toronto