



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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May 24, 2022

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

RE: IE 30.15 Western Waterfront Master Plan - Update

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Toronto supports IE30.15 Western Waterfront Master Plan - Update (Ward 3, 4), prepared in 2009. It represents an important opportunity to revisit and reimagine an important public asset that is used by people of all ages and abilities. In addition to the myriad recreational, social and sporting options the western waterfront offers, the corridor represents an opportunity to improve the safety and access to the growing number of people using bikes, e-bikes, and other microbility devices seeking a direct east-west route in and out of the city. Just last week, a person riding on the Martin Goodman Trail was seriously injured by a driver who veered off from Lake Shore W. In 2017, a five-year-old child was killed while riding their bike beside Lake Shore W. The safety measures taken since then have not changed the fact that Lakeshore West is a roadway that is fundamentally dangerous by design.

We would like to **request that traffic calming measures and reallocation of traffic lanes on Lakeshore West include dedicated and protected space for people walking and cycling**, and that this be both included and prioritized as part of this plan.

We are requesting the implementation of the following short-term and long-term measures:

1. **Reduce speeds and adding traffic calming measures on Lakeshore West by repurposing two curb lanes to create a robust, protected bidirectional bike lane** using crash-proof jersey barriers to create space and separation for people walking, wheeling and cycling;
2. **Provide ActiveTO road closures on Lakeshore West every weekend this summer** to continue to welcome and grow the thousands of people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the waterfront safely without noise and traffic pollution;
3. **Ensure Lakeshore West becomes a Complete Street** as part of the long-term Western Waterfront Master Plan.

These recommendations support the findings of the City of Toronto's ActiveTO Report, and the City's Vision Zero, TransformTO, Toronto Public Health's Roadmap to Health, and Economic Recovery & Rebuild Plan, all of which seek to ensure equity of access, safety and mobility for all road users.

The Martin Goodman Trail is the most popular trail in the city that is used daily by thousands of people for both recreation and commuting. The success of the ActiveTO program that was launched in 2020 saw an average of 18,000 cyclists, representing an increase of two to five times higher on weekends with ActiveTO programming. This demonstrates the importance providing safe cycling routes has in shifting people to active modes of transportation.

We also request that Cycle Toronto and other city-wide organizations focused on improving active transportation options become stakeholders who are consulted throughout the Western Waterfront Master Plan update.

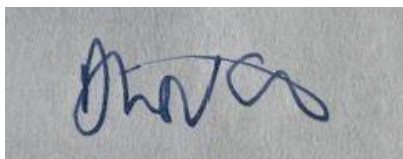
We support the City's objectives of improving public access to the waterfront; expanding active travel and recreational options along the waterfront; as well as celebrating the area's heritage and enhancing the beauty and cohesiveness of the public realm.

Lakeshore Blvd is a key corridor that provides one of the only points of active transportation access to the downtown core, and with safety measures implemented, could better serve all Torontonians. With dedicated public space for people seeking healthy outdoor recreational activities while also increasing the safety and comfort of all road users.

Cycle Toronto is confident that these concerns can be addressed in the coming year through continued collaboration to ensure that Western Waterfront Master Plan - Update will be a success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alison Stewart
Senior Advocacy Manager
Cycle Toronto

