



July 5, 2022
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Matthew Green
email: iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE31:12 Cycling Network Plan - 2022 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - Second Quarter Project Updates

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

The Women's Cycling Network is an inclusive group of more than 100 women who cycle for transportation, health and the environment. We promote cycling as "wheels of empowerment" by assisting women in taking up cycling and working with them to make riding a bike safer in their communities. Many of our members are residents of Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park. **We strongly support the Staff recommendations for the Renewing Overlea project as outlined in the Cycling Network Plan: 2022 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - Second Quarter Project Updates.** We like the wider sidewalks, protected intersections, separated cycle tracks, higher barriers on the bridge and the conservation of all motor vehicle lanes. However, we think that there is more that can be done to enhance the value of this project for our community and offer the following recommendations.

- While we appreciate the greater protections offered to people walking and biking through this project, speeding on Overlea Blvd will remain the problem that it is today unless steps are taken to reduce vehicle speeds through road design and automatic speed enforcement. On May 22, 2022 a car flipped over and landed up on the sidewalk demonstrating that risks to pedestrians and cyclists will remain. We support the local community school's call for lower speed limits in the area.



.Photo: May 22, 2022 taken by Michael Longfield

- Overlea Blvd. is a vital connection between the two neighbourhoods and the planned reconstruction of the Overlea Bridge and the nearby intersections at Don Mills Road and Thornccliffe Park Drive East will make it possible for people to comfortably move between the two communities when walking and cycling. To make this investment even more useful, we recommend proceeding as soon as possible with safe and protected cycling connections on Don Mills Road to connect with the Eglinton bike lanes, and on Overlea Blvd. to Millwood Road to connect with the bike lanes on the Leaside Bridge. These will help residents to access other parts of the city on our bikes.
- We look forward to participating in future consultations on more detailed design, public art and lighting considerations. The Overlea Bridge provides one of the best viewpoints for our beautiful Don Valley. We agree with other community members in their recommendation that the bridge include rest areas with benches and a lookout area for viewing the valley. But the Overlea Bridge has also unfortunately been a destination for those seeking to commit suicide and we ask that the higher barriers be specifically designed to prevent the ability to jump off the bridge.

We want to recognize the significant efforts of City Staff and our local councillors to engage with community members on the Renewing Overlea project and we are eager to continue participating in future discussions as this project proceeds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Noorain Faisal,

Thorncliffe Park resident

On behalf of the Women's Cycling Network

C.c. Mayor John Tory

Councillor Jaye Robinson, Ward 15

Councillor Denzil Minnan Wong, Ward 16

Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services