



**The Bike Brigade**  
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July 6, 2022

## IE31.12 -- Cycling Network Plan

e: [iec@toronto.ca](mailto:iec@toronto.ca)

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Our community of 1,000+ volunteers at the Bike Brigade has greatly benefited from the rapid increase of new and upgraded cycling infrastructure over the past two years. We're people who have been moved to support our community through a spirit of solidarity not charity. A connected network of safe streets helps grow our capacity and our reach, and in turn makes riding a bike a better option for more people across our city.

We are writing **in support of all the cycling projects in these reports**, including growing the cycling network in Etobicoke with the Martin Grove Cycling Project, and other improvements to existing bikeways and intersections.

We are pleased to see more connectivity planned to the network downtown with the **Gerrard Complete Street Project** from Sherbourne St and over the Don Valley to Blackburn St. The Bike Brigade is a proud partner of organisations serving this community including [Community Connect Toronto](#) and [Allan Gardens Food Bank](#), and a safer Gerrard St would help our volunteers in their deliveries.

In particular **we strongly support the Renewing Overlea Boulevard Project** including cycling improvements to connect the communities of Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park. The Bike Brigade is a proud partner with [East York Meals on Wheels](#), helping their one-of-a-kind Halal program to deliver fresh meals to seniors, persons living with disability and new mothers of these communities by bicycle. These bikeways including overdue upgrades to the Overlea bridge would greatly improve the safety of people riding bikes along what often feels like a very busy highway.

These projects would improve the safety and accessibility of our volunteer opportunities, allowing us to reach our community members in need of food and essentials. We urge you to approve them and put renewed focus to ensure **Toronto stays on track to connect, grow, and renew ~30 kilometres of bikeways a year** per the [2022-2024 Near-Term Implementation Program approved by Council in December](#).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Longfield  
Policy & Advocacy Lead  
The Bike Brigade

Rachel Wang  
Executive Director  
The Bike Brigade



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Mika Harada  
Campaign Lead  
The Bike Brigade

*Since the start of the pandemic, the Bike Brigade community—now 1,000+ volunteers—has delivered over 37,000 hot meals and 17,200 food boxes by bikes and trikes to sustainably address food insecurity in Toronto. We've ridden thousands of kilometers and reduced up to 10 tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub>) GHG emissions by replacing vehicles with bikes.*

Cc: Community Connect Toronto  
Allan Gardens Food Bank  
East York Meals on Wheels  
Out Of The Cold  
Dixon Hall Meals on Wheels