



May 10, 2023

RE: IE3:8 - Millwood Road Safety Improvements

To Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Members of City Council

Cycle Don Valley Midtown is the ward advocacy group for Cycle Toronto in Ward 15 and Ward 16. **We strongly support the proposed Millwood Road Safety Improvements as recommended by City Staff to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on April 26, 2023.**

City staff brought forward an excellent proposal to the IEC in April that will finally bring best practices in road safety design for all modes of transportation to a busy and important connector and the adjacent intersections. **We ask that you approve the Millwood Road Safety Improvements, including the necessary northbound one-way cycle track, and prioritize their implementation.**

This project is located in our community and will directly improve the safety of people cycling in the area. It has long-served as a commuting route from East York for students attending Leaside High School and Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute, as well as for people cycling to work in the north and west, including at Holland Bloorview, Toronto Rehab, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences. The route is one of only a few that provide an at-grade crossing of the Don Valley and is favoured by people who bike for that reason.

The proposed safety improvements, along with the planned rehabilitation of the Overlea Bridge, are important steps toward connecting East York residents to Danforth Avenue and the waterfront through safe on-road cycle tracks. Future connections, as noted in the staff proposal, include plans for cycling infrastructure on Overlea Blvd., Laird Drive, and Donlands, Pape and Broadview. These connections will increase the utility of the improvements to Millwood Road and encourage more people to get around by bike. However, the CPR underpass on Millwood Road between Redway Road and Laird Drive is a dangerous stretch that must be addressed if the potential for cycling in this area is to be fully realized.

A supplementary report, as requested by IEC, is to be delivered to Council by May 10th to provide *“alternative options to the proposed additional northbound one-way cycle track on the*

east side of Millwood Road that prioritize space for pedestrians and public realm...” While we have not yet seen the report, we do not support the removal of the northbound one-way cycle track on the east side of Millwood Road. We see this as problematic and counter to the safety of pedestrians.

Residents of Thorncliffe Park currently use the Leaside Park trail to exit the neighbourhood by bike. Removing the northbound cycle track would eliminate an on-road cycling connection to the two-way cycle track on the west-side of Millwood. As a result, people will choose to ride in safety on the sidewalk to make the connection at Overlea. Elimination of the northbound cycle track on the east side may also encourage people to take a short-cut by riding on the sidewalk in the southbound direction to the Donlands and Pape intersection. Concerns about sidewalk cycling on the bridge and its effect on pedestrians were raised during community consultations and we know that the best way to discourage sidewalk cycling is by providing safe cycling infrastructure where people want to ride.

Thank you for your consideration,

Holly Reid

On behalf of the Executive of Cycle Don Valley Midtown

Richard Neilson, Geoff Kettel, Najia Zewari

Cc. Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Jacquelyn Hayward, Director, Transportation Project Design & Management
Becky Katz, Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Projects