



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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November 7, 2023

Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE7 Connected Communities Advancing Year-Round Trails between Earl Bales Park and York Mills Station

Dear Mayor Chow and City Council,

Cycle Toronto has long been advocating for improved ravine access in North York and across the city, and are asking you to vote in favour of IE7.8.

The only trail running between Earl Bales Park and York Mills station, which provides a safe way to cross the 401, is closed annually from April to mid-November. This has resulted in disconnecting communities by reducing access to green spaces and forcing pedestrians and cyclists onto indirect and unsafe roads to connect to York Mills station.

Toronto has made progress on improving cycling and pedestrian connections, but there remain many areas that lack access to safe connections that improve mobility. Giving people year round access to the trail will not only increase the connectivity for people who live and work in the area, it will open up space that has been exclusively reserved for a specific group of people. Diversifying the use of Toronto's public green spaces takes a more inclusive and equitable approach to how its valuable land is used.

Toronto's beautiful ravine systems contribute to improving the quality of life of people who access them. As the city expands, giving people access to green spaces is important.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Stewart".

Alison Stewart, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy

Cycle Toronto is a charity that works to make Toronto a healthy, safe and vibrant city for all by working to shape policy and infrastructure by pursuing evidence-based solutions that make cycling a viable option for all Torontonians and engaging and collaborating with community groups and people across the city.