



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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December 12, 2023

Toronto City Council
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**RE: IE9.1 - Eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Northbound Don Valley Parkway Closures
- 2024 Toronto Triathlon Festival**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Council,

Cycle Toronto supports the use of Toronto's roads for large-scale events like the Toronto Triathlon Festival. They are a powerful display that our streets are for people.

We also ask that when considering these requests that Council directs staff to find solutions to extend the closures before or after the event and **bring back the ActiveTO Major Road Closures**. This item in particular already includes [sections of Lake Shore Blvd W](#).

As Toronto continues to encourage and enable more people to choose to ride a bike, the [city's data shows that ActiveTO helped grow and diversify cycling in Toronto](#): "New cyclists and those returning to cycling included more women and more people identifying as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Colour compared with long-time cyclists." The city's survey also showed high support (92%) for continuing the closures even after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. Leveraging these event closures to bring back ActiveTO would welcome thousands of people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the space and be active, contributing to the overall well-being of residents.

We also reiterate our call to reimagine the Lake Shore Blvd W through traffic calming and repurposing the curb lanes using low walls or jersey barriers to create new bikeways to ease conflicts and overcrowding on the Martin Goodman Trail. Ultimately it's essential to ensure that Lake Shore Blvd W becomes a Complete Street as part of the Western Waterfront Master Plan including permanent and dedicated space for people walking, rolling, and cycling.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Longfield".

Michael Longfield
Executive Director

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charity that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.