



January 24, 2023

Infrastructure and Environment Committee

by email: iec@toronto.ca

Re: 2023.IEI 1.4 Cycling Network Plan 2021 Active TO Cycling Network Expansion Projects Update

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is writing in support of making the Yonge Street Complete Street pilot permanent as recommended in number 1 of the report.

Our segment of Bloor Street recently became permanent after its pilot, and we have been asked to support this initiative after our experience with our pilot. We supported the bike lanes on Bloor Street East from Yonge Street to Parliament Street. The history of our Association will show that we are strong supporters of safe passage in support of all types of transportation on our streets and sidewalks from pedestrians to transport vehicles. We celebrated the installation of the bike lanes with a ribbon cutting. Complete streets are in keeping with Vision Zero, and the 8 to 80 concepts for our city.

With respect to our specific experience with the installation of the bike lanes on Bloor Street East, there have been and continue to be challenges. The introduction of the cycling lanes presented new trials and complications to certain parts of Bloor St E. However, the City Staff were very and responsive to working with us to mitigate and overcome problem areas. This work continues to this day. Becky Katz and her Staff at Transportation Services welcomed all feedback and were and are extremely responsive both in reception and reaction times to tweak problem spots. We also know that one cannot force the various modes of transportation to where you want them to go. Rather, one has to work with where they want to and will go. As such, working through those problem areas is the only way to go forward and make our streets, and in this case Yonge Street, safe for everyone.

Complete Streets are an important component to achieve Toronto's climate goals by providing the infrastructure to move off of the dependent on carbon modes of travel such as biking, walking and transit.

In conclusion, if the City of Toronto is committed to Vision Zero, then making this pilot permanent with a wiliness of everyone to mitigate problem areas is the only way forward.

Respectfully;

Linda Brett, President BENA
On behalf of the Bloor Street East Neighbourhod Association
cc.: Becky Katz; Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Projects