



Rosedale BIA
1256 Yonge St.
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1W5

January 25th, 2023

To whom it may concern,

Throughout the course of the ActiveTO pilot, we have continuously requested and compiled feedback from our merchants about this project.

As a board, we understand and support the City's vision of shared roadways and reduced environmental impact by emissions.

With respect to ActiveTO the community of merchants have voiced 3 main concerns. The bike lanes are generally viewed as an asset to communities; however, we are recommending that the stretch of roadway is not an appropriate space.

1. Traffic and Congestion

The increase in traffic congestion, limited parking and extended travel times deters customers from coming to the area.

Merchants have expressed concern about the validity of the traffic data in the latest ActiveTO report, which doesn't align with the significant congestion that is visually apparent on a daily basis.

Idling vehicles lead to increased emissions and make the walkways and CafeTO unpleasant for customers.

Yonge Street traffic has caused increased circulation on side streets, impeding business deliveries and residents' access to their homes. This congestion and lack of places to stop have made receiving deliveries at time impossible and has been a major strain on the businesses. Large trucks can be seen turning on side streets causing a slow down or blocking traffic on Yonge completely.

The neighbourhood has a number of current and pending construction sites which add to the congestion and slow down of traffic – we want to highlight that ActiveTO was a pandemic project and since the inception of this project, there is a new streetlight and higher volumes of trucks servicing the construction sites, causing a slowdowns and deterring visitors to the neighbourhood.

CafeTO is helping our main street to recover and brings vibrancy to the neighbourhood. Combined with the bike lanes some businesses have lost access to their storefront. We are looking for a balanced approach to supporting the re-emergence as we move past the pandemic.

The congestion has taken away from the village and community feel of our neighbourhood. We want to grow and evolve but also protect the limited space we have.

2. Safety

There have been many concerns about the delays of EMS, Toronto Fire and Police as it is extremely difficult and often impossible to pull over on Yonge Street.

There are concerns about the actions of the cyclists and the risk they pose to cars and pedestrians when they do not follow the road rules. There are reports of pedestrians being struck and poses a risk to CafeTO.

Yonge St is unusually narrow for a main street and does not appear suitable for bike lanes, Avenue Road does not have this issue, and would seem more suitable for both cyclist, pedestrian safety.

3. Ease of Access

All businesses need access to equal loading and unloading zones as well as curbside pick up on both sides of Yonge for their businesses to survive. ActiveTO is compromising this.

We are an established older community, meaning that elderly patrons make up a large portion of our customers. They often need to be dropped off at their location and bike lanes restrict their access.

Customers find it difficult to pick up their food because finding space to park for a few brief minutes is sometimes impossible.

Yonge street (as opposed to the original ActiveTO pilot on the Danforth which is slower and wider) is very narrow. Bike lanes make parking and live traffic lanes too narrow. Wide trucks trying to park, cars can barely open doors, causing further slowdown of traffic as well as safety hazards.

In summary

Although many merchants believe that bike lanes are good for society and the environment, the installation on Yonge Street is having a negative impact on their businesses. Would the city consider making a diversion to Avenue Road?

We are a retail neighbourhood, and the bike lanes are not bringing customers, but impeding them.

The project was implemented during Covid. As the city opens at full capacity and construction season ramps up in the neighbourhood, we are asking the city to reconsider ActiveTO along this particular stretch of Yonge.

Thank you,

Rosedale BIA

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