

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

January 26, 2023

Dear Mayor Tory and members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Re: IE1.4 ActiveTO Yonge Street Cycling Network Expansion

I am writing on behalf of the Harbord Village Residents' Association to urge you to vote in favour of making the Midtown Yonge St pilot permanent. We support Complete Streets for climate, safety, and livability reasons.

Climate: The Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA) is a volunteer organization of residents representing and engaging homeowners and renters living in Toronto between Bloor, College, Spadina, and Bathurst Streets. We are committed to strengthening and preserving the stability, distinctive character, and quality of life of our neighbourhood. As an organization, we committed last fall to act on climate change and to educate and encourage others to do so as well. We all bear a responsibility to counteract climate change however possible, in personal, institutional, governmental and commercial ways. The city itself has committed to serious climate action, based partly on active transportation - TransformTO has a stated goal of having 75% of all trips under 5 km taken by foot, bike, or transit by 2030 - and encouraging safe active transportation is a critical piece of this plan. Without safe and encouraging infrastructure such as the Midtown Yonge Complete Street, there is little hope to achieve any of the city's stated goals.

Safety: Toronto has also committed to Vision Zero - meaning zero traffic fatalities. Unfortunately, the streets of Toronto are getting meaner and more dangerous - careless driving and a lack of police enforcement mean that well-designed safety infrastructure is the only thing standing between vulnerable road users and tragedy. A complete street design encourages traffic calming, making the entire area safe for all users. Moreover, many of our residents cycle, walk and use transit as their main mode on transportation - many do not own cars. Though we are not adjacent to Yonge St, many of our residents' trips pass through midtown, and cycle routes that pass through our neighbourhood connect to Yonge. A complete grid of safe cycling infrastructure is key for people of all communities to travel safely through the city.

Livability: Finally, the numbers reported from the pilot speak for themselves, with cycle and foot traffic way up - more people are using Yonge to get to places along the midtown stretch, as transit on the way to work or school, for couriers and other professionals on the job, and recreationally. The impact on car traffic has been minimal, despite the perceptions of many motorists. Like the business owners along Bloor St West in HVRA's neighbourhood discovered a few years ago, Yonge St merchants will find improved patronage. Opponents of the Yonge Midtown pilot will say traffic, transit and EMS delays are

too much to tolerate. However, traffic delays only average less than 90 seconds and TTC and EMS say any delays are negligible.

Toronto has a chance to be a city that leads in livability and climate responsibility. Please use this opportunity to have a lasting positive impact. Transportation Services has already recommended that City Council approve the ActiveTO Yonge Street Cycling Network Expansion project as permanent. I hope that HVRA can count on your support for making this pilot permanent with your vote at IEC on Monday January 30 and at Council next month.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Fleming

Chair, HVRA

Cc: Councillor Matlow