



Friday, January 27, 2023

Infrastructure & Environment Committee c/o Matthew Green 10th floor, West Tower, City Hall 100
Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Submitted by e-mail to iec@toronto.ca

Dear Councillor McKelvie & Members of the Infrastructure & Environment Committee: RE: IE1.4
(Cycling Network Plan: 2021 ActiveTO Cycling Network Expansion Project Updates)

We **strongly** support the staff recommendation to make the Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot and the Bayview multi-use path permanent.

Downtown cyclists have been able to visit midtown over the last few months safely. We have cycled safely to have dinner with friends and relatives and then returned home, safely. We love to visit some of the best restaurants, and best coffee shops and tea stores. Its a real pleasure, we feel much more connected to mid-town Toronto.

I first became a cycling advocate when Jarvis became a major issue. I lived in mid-town and traveled through downtown with both a car and a bike. I was struck by how car drivers could complain over a negligible minutes-long slow down versus a cyclist's desperate call for safe passage. I did not believe there was a call for a war, but that's what we got. The infamous war. And it still goes on today.

The engineers talk about Complete Streets which prepossesses the belief that every mode of transport, walking, cycling, transit and driving need to have equitable access to anywhere in the city. It is near never the case that a road is inappropriate for cyclists, its always a matter of how access can be provided. The Toronto Cycling infrastructure staff continue to design really great complete streets.

Toronto Centre has more complete streets than other wards. What is missing are the connections to the other wards. We ask that Yonge Street be the street that connects the core wards to each other. This mid-town project needs to connect to yongeTOMorrow at College Street and further south to Queen Street and the lake. And in the next year, Yonge Street will need to connect from The Esplanade to the Martin Goodman Trail so to not leave cyclists facing a very dangerous Yonge Street at The Esplanade.

The Esplanade takes cyclists along to Bayview to The Brickworks, North Toronto and Scarborough. Truly a pleasure.

I drive a car. The slow down is negligible. Car drivers' bad habits do more to slow traffic than bike lanes. The only way I could not want bike lanes is if I hated bikes, which I do not. The real fear is not providing safe passage to cyclists as many people are faced with the existential dilemma of to cycle or not to cycle.

Please accept the staff recommendations. And continue to build out an equitable transportation network.

Thank you for your kind consideration
Arthur Klimowicz
for Toronto Centre Cyclists