



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

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Toronto City Hall  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**RE: IE1.4 - Cycling Network Plan: 2021 ActiveTO Cycling Network Expansion Project Updates**

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Over the past 2 years, we have seen increases in cycling and pedestrian trips, in large part thanks to the success of innovative city programs like ActiveTO, CafeTO, RapidTO, as well as the ever increasingly popular Bike Share. Cycle Toronto was, and continues to be, an enthusiastic supporter of the ActiveTO program. It was an important program that supported safe distancing and public health during lockdowns, and it continues to be an integral part of the ongoing COVID-19 recovery. We applaud the city's efforts in expanding the city's active transportation network, as demonstrated by the expansion of the city's connected and protected cycling network, and the expansion of Bike Share Toronto to the inner suburbs.

Last year, a number of the ActiveTO bike lanes were made permanent. This represented an important shift from ActiveTO as a temporary emergency measure to becoming an essential part of Toronto's growing active transportation network. **Making both the Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot Project and the ActiveTO Bayview Cycling Network Expansion Projects permanent is integral to building on this important work. It will also contribute to helping the city reach its ambitious TransformTO climate action goals.**

Beyond climate goals, having safe and accessible spaces to visit and travel is important for the vibrancy of our city. The Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot and the ActiveTO Bayview Cycling Network Expansion project are great examples of what Toronto can accomplish when we prioritize making our streets safer, more enjoyable to visit, and more accessible for people of all ages and abilities, and not just the movement of cars. This has also contributed to the economic vibrancy of areas with complete streets by supporting local businesses who benefit from an increase in foot and bike traffic, as demonstrated with the city's growing roster of successful Toronto case examples such as Bloor St W and Destination Danforth.

City staff have done an exceptional job implementing the Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot and the ActiveTO Bayview Cycling Network Expansion projects by delivering many consultations, listening to stakeholder feedback, making adjustments, collecting data and communicating their results. The data collected has demonstrated that the projects have had a positive impact on the respective corridors, while having a negligible effect on motor vehicle traffic. **After 18 months of installation, the Midtown Yonge Complete Street has seen increases in cycling trips between 57% and 250%, and increases in pedestrian trips between 59% and 145%.** Vehicle travel times have increased at most by just 69 seconds. With apps such as Google Maps, it is becoming easier to see that getting around by bike is increasingly the most efficient way to get around compared to other travel modes. **To make it easier for people to adopt biking as an affordable and convenient travel mode, it is imperative that the city supports this shift by expanding its network of connected and protected bike lanes.**

If we are to achieve our TransformTO goal of having 50% of all trips under 5km made by foot, bike, or transit by 2030, projects such as these must be made permanent, and extended across the city, so that people feel safe opting for active transportation. With these goals in mind, we also look forward to seeing the Midtown Yonge Complete Street project extended south to connect with YongeTOMorrow and north to connect to Reimagining Yonge so that residents are able to safely travel this important corridor.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope we can count on your support on January 30th by voting unanimously in favour of the city staff recommendations outlined in IE1.4.

Sincerely,



Alison Stewart  
Interim Co-Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Policy  
Cycle Toronto

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

