



The voice
of our
community

January 30, 2023

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Ellen Devlin
iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE1.4 Cycling Network Plan – 2021 Active TO Cycling Network Expansion Plan Updates

Dear Mayor Tory and Chair Councillor McKelvie and Members, Infrastructure and Environment Committee

The Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG) represents residents living in the area between the Beltline to the north, Woodlawn Avenue West and Jackes Avenue to the to the south, Avenue Road to the west and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and the Vale of Avoca to the east. Yonge Street at St. Clair is at the heart of our community.

The DPRG supports the recommendations of the report to make permanent the ActiveTO Yonge Street portion in our area. We also note that many Deer Park residents supported the Yonge4 All petition which was in favour as well as the fact that a number of residents and businesses in our area are not. The changes must be well considered.

We agree that the permanent installation will help meet City goals for climate, safety and livability reasons. Transform TO's goal is that 75% of all trips be by active transportation and the report states that cycle and foot traffic is way up on Yonge and that the impact on car and emergency services has been minimal, despite some perceptions. The installation should help meet the goals of Vision Zero – no fatalities - by encouraging traffic calming and helping make a grid for safe cycling. The report also states: "If the pilot is made permanent, it would provide the opportunity to transform temporary curb extensions and buffers into permanent planted and/or concrete islands, incorporate upgrades into redevelopment site streetscape frontages, and incorporate other upgrades as part of major road resurfacing planned in upcoming years."



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The heart of the Deer Park community is along the highly used portion of Yonge Street centring on St. Clair – by bikes, pedestrians and vehicles. We therefore want to ensure that the details of the permanent installation will meet the needs of our community. We therefore ask that:

1. There be public input into the development of the implementation plan including.

- An Advisory Committee with members from the Deer Park Residents Group and the Yonge+St. Clair BIA and representative of the different parts of our Yonge Street sections be consulted in the development of the implementation plan for our area and the monitoring of its successes and where improvements are needed. Such a Committee could be useful in the other parts of Yonge.
- Public input into how the goals for “Complete Streets” be implemented so we will have an attractive Yonge Street with trees, planting, public spaces etc.;

2. Public safety is improved including by

- Introducing measures to address the excessive speeding of bikes, e- bikes and e-scooters, to better protect all users, and in particular seniors and wheelchair users, and the lack of stopping at stop signs and redlights etc. with consideration given to the use of speed limits and special enforcement.
- Ongoing monitoring of of bike lane operations.
- Continued monitoring of traffic impacts due to “escapes” on affected side streets, including a review of the effectiveness of the new left turn lights and the use of special street markings as well as the need to reduce speeding on these streets by adding bumps or other measures.
- Making needed improvements to the Yonge St. Clair intersection area to better ensure the safety of of all users and to make it a more attractive place, an initiative proposed by the Deer Park Residents Group Board.

3. Changes required as a result of recommendations be included from

- The long overdue approved traffic studies for Yonge Street re increased public transit.
- The long overdue approved study of the Yonge St. Clair intersection area as a result of the anticipated number of development applications in the area
- The proposed study to improve safety for all users at the intersection area and to make its an attractive centre for our community, recommended by the Deer Park Residents Group.

4. Consideration be given to the impact on street design of the alignment of bike lanes of the City’s proposed new initiative to charge rent for CurbTO space, anticipated to reduce the number of patios.



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We note that two of the issues raised in our community about the impacts of bike lanes have now been addressed – the traffic jams due to buses on Yonge due to subway improvement projects and the impacts of construction traffic. The weekend updates of the subway system have been completed, so there are no longer major traffic jams on Yonge caused by long lines of buses waiting to turn into the St. Clair subway station. Also, given the number of development projects in our area that will require construction traffic on Yonge, Councillor Matlow has now arranged for a construction traffic coordinator, a role that has proven very effective at Yonge and Eglinton.

Cathie Macdonald
President, Deer Park Residents Group

CC Councillor Matlow