

January 27, 2023

**Re: Support for to make ActiveTO Cycling Expansion Projects Permanent ([2023.IE1.4](#))**

Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Toronto Environmental Alliance is calling on the city to make permanent the Yonge Street Cycling Expansion Project (Davisville Avenue to Bloor Street) and the Bayview Avenue Cycling Expansion Project (River St. to Front St. East) Projects installed in 2021, as recommended by City staff.

- (1) To reach the city's Net Zero by 2040 goals, the City's TransformTO plan calls for 75% of all short trips (5km or less) to be made by walking, cycling, or by transit, by 2030. In order to achieve this goal, it is imperative that people have a safe space to walk and bike in both their home and their destination neighbourhoods.
- (2) To reach the City's Vision Zero goal of no more traffic deaths, Toronto needs complete streets across the city to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to travel across the city;
- (3) We support this as a step forward to devote more equitable, safe street space to pedestrians and cyclists, and reduce reliance on cars. The Midtown Yonge report shows that the extra space dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists has increased traffic in those modes far more than any decrease in vehicular traffic. The most recent [City staff report on the Midtown ActiveTO project](#) highlighted an increase in pedestrian use up to 132% and bicycle use as much as 180%.

- (4) CafeTO has shown that reducing vehicle traffic can lead to increased economic activity for small businesses. The significant increases in pedestrian and bicycle traffic will bring positive benefits for local businesses including new clientele, greater activity at street level, and enhanced streetscape. [Analysis from the Globe and Mail and TABIA](#) found that residents spent \$181 million on curbside patios in the summer of 2021 compared to just \$3.7 million revenue the city would have received from parking fees.

Providing people with access to active modes of transportation is critical in meeting the city's climate targets, vital to meeting the city's Vision Zero targets, and supports small businesses.

As such, on behalf of Toronto Environmental Alliance, I urge you to support the staff recommendations to make permanent the Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue ActiveTO Cycling Expansion projects.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Regards,



How-Sen Chong  
Climate Campaigner  
Toronto Environmental Alliance