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**Councillors Alejandra Bravo & Dianne Saxe**

City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillors Bravo and Saxe,

### **College Street Bike Lane Westward Extension**

We thank you for your leadership and dedication to safe streets. The College Bike Lane extension to Lansdowne is critical for the safety of the vulnerable road users and vibrancy of our communities.

You rightly cite the seriously injured stats, 2010-2020. As **lawyers for injured cyclists** in Toronto, I can assure you that number is dwarfed exponentially by people injured in what TPS reporting does not classify as “seriously injured”. There are undoubtedly in that time span hundreds of cyclists injured on College St., who sustained broken wrists, shattered kneecaps, traumatic brain injuries, fractured ankles require hardware placement surgery and so on.

These injuries are not officially reported as “serious”, but certainly their impacts can be profound for those affected, their families, employers, communities and our health care system. A lack of bike lanes on this stretch of College St. has not only resulted in the number of seriously injuries you mention, but hundreds of other injuries, at least.

Our client MH was hit near the intersection of College and Dovercourt on January 3, 2023. MH sustained a debilitating shoulder injury requiring 2 surgeries. The Police Report classified MH’s injury as minor. MH still receives PSW support and has not yet returned to work.

On September 26, 2022, our client SH was hit at College and Dufferin by a turning vehicle. SH suffered a concussion that still impacts his day to day now, his injury would also be classified as minor.

That said, I also write to you as a **father, business owner and community volunteer** who will be directly affected by bike lanes being installed on College St.

Our 11-year-old child cycles with me from Delaware Ave to Alexander Muir/Gladstone Ave PS. Throughout the 2 years we have been biking with her to school, even as her skill

level increases, one thing remains constant - we avoid cycling on College St. Instead, we take a circuitous route on side streets, sometimes impassable in winter. College St. is simply too dangerous for this young rider to travel on.

With streetcar tracks, fast moving motor vehicle traffic and parked cars, there is a razor thin margin of error between traffic, tracks and the “dooring zone”. We fear for her safety. A protected bike lane on the remainder of College would allow her to safely learn how to navigate bike lanes and give us confidence as a family to utilize our environmentally friendly mode of transportation to school.

As a **business owner**, neighboured by 3 restaurants, I have noticed that on street parking is not used in a meaningful way by their customers or our clients. Mostly, it is used by contractors, or during large rush hour time blocks parking is prohibited.

Adding a bike lane with well thought out delivery zones, disability transit access and a reasonable amount of private vehicle parking will create the bustling business volume we are all striving for. Studies from Harbord, Bloor and Danforth demonstrate that making liveable neighbourhoods that share space between all road users and do not prioritize car traffic over bike lanes is in fact better for business.


Finally, during the height of the second pandemic lockdown, our volunteer bike delivery organization, the **Toronto Bike Brigade**, was delivering 100 boxes of food every Tuesday from our office, west to Regent Park, St. James Town and other areas east of Yonge. Most of those riders avoid going east on College St. and go inconveniently out of their way in search of safer routes. On one occasion, a Bike Brigade volunteer took College St. and was doored just after Grace, suffering a hand injury.

People volunteering their time, biking to school, doing errands on cargo bikes or even working cyclists should not be imperilled based on their chosen route, especially a route that for some portions portrays itself as a safe cycling route.

We know sharrows and paint are not enough after years of living, working, and representing cyclists injured along College St. We wholeheartedly support your efforts but ask that action be taken now to encourage City Staff to expedite this process in the name of public safety and liveable communities. Reporting and waiting for 3 to 5 years to get moving on a project that can be built now will result in greater costs to our communities than the investment now of time, resources and leadership.

We hope to follow your bold leadership.

Kind Regards,



**Dave Shellnutt**

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