



DEPUTATION RE: IEC 4.3

Monday June 5, 2023

To the Chair, Jennifer McKelvie, members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, and Councillor Matlow,
I am writing in support of the IE4.3 - Cycling Network Plan

It is really wonderful to see the list of the 10 installation projects. In particular the Bloor St. bikeway extension is very much appreciated.

We know that safe infrastructure greatly increases the number of cyclists and allows for cyclists of all ages and abilities to enjoy the many benefits of cycling. I am a cyclist in my 70s and it makes a huge difference to me to have separated bike lanes. I can now cycle safely on Bloor St. I look for these routes because where there are no bike lanes the traffic is either going by too fast to be safe, or it's so congested you can't move. Cycling keeps me mobile, healthy and engaged with my community.

It is vital that we greatly increase the 'modal shift' from cars to bikes, walking and transit, and complete streets are extremely important to achieve this. People can then enjoy the safety and speed advantage of switching to a bike.

We only need to listen to the news to see the impacts of climate disruption, in the fires burning across our country and the drought floods and typhoons around the world. We are in a climate emergency.

Creating safe cycling infrastructure contributes meaningfully toward Toronto achieving our Net Zero by 2040 target and doing our part to slow climate change. It gives people safe and sustainable options to get around and reduces single car use occupancy. In doing so, we will also reduce traffic congestion and the associated pollution linked to vehicles.

Thank you for keeping this work going forward.

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