



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

November 28, 2023
Toronto City Hall
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE9.9 - Ensuring Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Routes in Construction Zones

Dear Chair McKelvie and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Toronto supports the calls from the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure that contractors working in the public right-of-way provide clear notification and signage, that includes the 311 phone number as well as the contact information for the construction zone manager. Ensuring that all construction zone projects are safe and accessible by being clearly marked and include pedestrian routes. Cycle Toronto would also like to add the importance of ensuring safe right of way passage is maintained for cyclists when bike lanes are compromised during construction.

Since 2022, Cycle Toronto has been working with city staff along with road safety and disability advocates to address the safety concerns of the wider community to improve construction zone safety. Despite the acceleration of new cycling infrastructure in recent years, city-wide there's an epidemic of construction zones that fail to meet MTO Book 7 guidelines. All too often, there is no safe path of travel for vulnerable road users which creates dangerous conflicts between the various road users all vying for limited space. We received almost 500 signatures supporting our calls to:

- prioritize and maintain cycling facilities and sidewalks
- utilize consistent, up-to-date signage that emphasizes the safety of all road users
- plan and communicate safe detours when necessary
- eliminate any resulting road hazards
- set tougher penalties for failure to comply

Additionally, we called for the creation of a "mobility squad", whose sole purpose is to ensure obstacle-free travel on the city's streets, could be another step in the right direction. Precedents for mobility squads have already been set in Montreal and other jurisdictions in the GTA. Better standards for reporting unsafe conditions (whether 311 or otherwise) with clear timelines for action should also be implemented.

Additionally, it is our view that unless the movement of people is prioritized along key transit corridors, and there is sufficient staff to proactively oversee the large volume of construction zones paired with sufficient enforcement, construction sites will remain a significant barrier to the movement and safety of people.

We look forward to the Town Hall recommended by the Accessibility Committee and General Manager, Transportation Services reporting back on related safety measures in the first quarter of 2024.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Stewart".

Alison Stewart

Director, Advocacy and Public Policy

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