



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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June 13, 2023

Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: MM7.24 Mitigating Disruption of Betty Sutherland Trail Closure (Ward 17)

Dear Deputy Mayor McKelvie and members of City Council,

Cycle Toronto is writing in support of this important member motion brought forward by Councillors Carroll and Burnside. People outside of cars have very few options to safely cross Highway 401. The Betty Sutherland Trail represents an important north-south corridor that provides pedestrians and cyclists with a safe and comfortable environment for their daily commute to work and school, as well as recreational and social activities.

In addition to providing no notice of the trail closure, the Ministry of Transportation failed to provide a safe detour for the many people who rely on it, leaving them with no safe and accessible option to get across Highway 401 until winter 2025. As a result, people who bike and walk are now faced with taking a significant detour that is dangerous because it forces them onto major streets. Many are cutting through the Oriole GO Station, which sees them crossing the rail track, which is neither accessible or safe.

If the Ministry of Transportation fails to work with city staff and the local councillors to find an immediate solution to this issue, we urge you to direct city staff to find one.

The Ministry of Transportation needs to be reminded of Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan and its commitment to TransformTO. As Toronto continues to expand, it is increasingly urgent to ensure safe and accessible ways for residents of all ages, abilities and incomes to be able to cross the network of Highways such as the 401.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Alison Stewart
Director, Advocacy and Public Policy
Cycle Toronto

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