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July 18, 2023
City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: MM8.4 - Protecting the Science Centre to Support Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

Dear Mayor Chow and members of City Council,

Since 2008, Cycle Toronto has been helping the City and its residents reimagine their views and perceptions of the public realm and discover the affordability, practicality and enjoyment of getting around by bike to access jobs, community services and popular destinations. Unfortunately, the distribution of opportunities and economic prosperity is not divided equitably across Toronto.

Cycle Toronto is writing in support of the above mentioned member motion which seeks the City Manager to outline any existing provincial requirements regarding the lease to operate the Ontario Science Centre, or other public attractions located at Don Mills and Eglinton, as well as investigating the possibility of **keeping the Science Centre at its current location**.

Relocating the Ontario Science Centre out of the community where it has resided since it opened in 1969 will negatively impact the equity deserving communities that live in the area, especially during a time when the area will soon be served by the Eglinton Crosstown's station of the same name. In an area of Toronto with a dearth of destinations, the Ontario Science Centre has been integral to establishing an important destination that residents of Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park and their children have benefited from. With recent improvements to the public realm in the area which will soon have protected cycling connections, improvements to pedestrian safety for people walking on the Leaside bridge, as well as bike lanes on Overlea Blvd. People will also be able to safely connect to the Leaside Park trail, making the area better connected to the communities that surround them.

The residents of Ward 16 deserve the same opportunities of access to an economically vibrant community that comes to areas that are well served by public transit, attractive public destinations and public parks.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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

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.