



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

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November 14, 2023

Vice Chair Malik and Toronto and East York Community Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: TE9.41 - Construction Staging Area - Lake Shore Boulevard West (955 Lake Shore Boulevard West)**

Dear Vice Chair Malik and members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

Cycle Toronto is writing to express concern over the closure of the Martin Goodman Trail between Ontario Dr and 126 meters to the east, between December 18, 2023 and March 1, 2024. This closure will divert the myriad of people who run, walk, bike and roll along the lake onto a pathway protected by jersey barriers on Lake Shore Blvd W. A particular concern that we have is diverting users from a 4.4 metre wide trail to a temporary path that is just 3.3 metres wide.

We urge you to ensure that the management of the construction be done in accordance with best practices that include:

- Coordinated planning, coordination and monitoring of the site with the private contractor, EllisDon Civil, to ensure that they are meeting their contractual obligations;
- That the signage is both consistent and posted in such a way that gives trail users sufficient notice;
- That the detour path is sufficiently lit to ensure safety for the trail users who travel along the corridor at all hours of the day and night;
- That the construction and detour is communicated widely to the public using all communication channels: direct mail, social media, media release, google maps, Waze etc.

In May 2022, a person riding on the Martin Goodman Trail was seriously injured by a careless driver who veered off from Lake Shore Blvd W, and in 2017, a five-year-old child was killed while riding their bike beside Lake Shore Blvd W. The safety measures taken since then have not changed the fact that Lake Shore Blvd West is an arterial roadway that is fundamentally dangerous by design.

**Cycle Toronto would like to see the Lakeshore Blvd West become a Complete Street as part of the 2025-2027 Cycling Network Plan** which will contribute to the success of the Western Waterfront Master Plan.

The Martin Goodman Trail is the most popular trail in the city that is used daily by thousands of people for both recreation and commuting year round. The success of the ActiveTO program that was launched in 2020 saw an average of 18,000 cyclists, representing an increase of two to five times higher on weekends with ActiveTO programming, which saw the closure of the Lakeshore Blvd W to vehicular traffic. Since the end of ActiveTO, the Martin Goodman Trail remains the only safe route for people seeking to cross the city from east to west at the south of the city. The only safe bridge over the Humber River does not accommodate the volume of diverse trail users and an increase in conflicts between people traveling at different speeds is taking place.

Toronto will not achieve its TransformTO target of having 75 % of all trips under 5km made using active modes of transportation or its Vision Zero Road Safety Plan until the city's arterial roadways are redesigned to make it safer for people who bike, take transit, walk or roll. This should begin with redesigning the Lakeshore Blvd W into a Complete Street.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Alison Stewart  
Director, Advocacy and Public Policy  
Cycle Toronto

*Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charity that advocates to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for people of all ages, abilities and incomes.*