



The voice
of our
community

November 9, 2024

City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: CC23.1 Respecting Local Democracy and Cities

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council

The Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG) represents residents in the area between Avenue Road to the west and Mount Pleasant Cemetery to the east, the Beltline to the north and to the south the CPR Tracks and the properties on the south side of Jackes Avenue.

The Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG) recognizes that there are a range of views within our community regarding the installation of bike lanes on major routes – both in principle and in particular, design decisions of installed bike lanes, specifically for our community those installed on Yonge Street. While many in the community are strongly supportive of improving infrastructure for active transportation, legitimate concerns have also been raised around some of the on-the ground impacts regarding both traffic flow and safety of Yonge Street bike lanes as currently designed. These concerns merit serious attention if we are to move forward with cycling infrastructure in a constructive, less contentious manner.

However, the DPRG believes strongly that any concerns and issues that exist regarding bike lanes must be worked through between the community and the appropriate – municipal – level of government. Bill 212 and specifically provincially mandated removal of bike lanes to create additional lanes of vehicle traffic represents unwarranted intrusion into what should be locally managed decisions.

It is highly implausible that road configuration designs imposed from Queens Park will result in outcomes that are beneficial for local residents and small businesses.



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City Council must be the decision-maker about the use of bike lanes. Our road network, built years ago, cannot meet the current demand by car users. Council must ensure that decision-making about efficient road use must be based on comprehensive traffic planning studies that include both the appropriate use of bike lanes as well as an expanded public transit network.

We therefore strongly urge City Council to use whatever means may be at its disposal to resist unwarranted Provincial interference in local affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Cathie Macdonald

President, Deer Park Residents Group

Richard Steele

Board member, Deer Park Residents Group

CC Councillor Matlow, Councillor Saxe, Councillor Colle
Noah Ross