



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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November 12, 2024

Toronto City Council
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Items CC23.1 & MM23.14 - stop overreach & protect our bike lanes

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Council,

Thank you for your commitment to stand up for the decision-making authority of City Council with item CC23.1. And thank you Councillors Saxe and Morley for your clear opposition to Bill 212 with item MM23.14.

Since CBC leaked the news of this proposed legislation back on September 19, Cycle Toronto has been clear in our opposition that it would represent an unprecedented overreach into municipal affairs. As you continue to review the city's options, Cycle Toronto and the 18,796 people (and counting) who have signed our petition are urging you to take clear and decisive action.

We are asking you to:

- 1) Pass a motion at City Council this week conveying its opposition to the Provincial government's Bill 212, and request the Province of Ontario to maintain municipal jurisdiction with respect to the installation and removal of bike lanes
- 2) Direct the General Manager of Transportation Services and Director of Planning, Design and Management to make a formal, data-driven submission to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy, Minister Sarkaria, and Premier Ford following the [Ontario Professional Planners Institute's statement](#) that Bill 212 is a move away from evidence-based practices that will not reduce congestion and will increase risk to public safety and the [Ontario Traffic Council's urging](#) that efficient flow of traffic should not come at the expense of cyclists' and other vulnerable road users' lives
- 3) Work to rally all 444 municipalities against Bill 212, along with the City of Kingston who have already adopted such motions, in solidarity with the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)'s statement](#) that requiring provincial approval would be a significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction

4) Make it clear that the City of Toronto will refuse to comply in spite of the bill's "requirement for the City of Toronto to provide support to facilitate the removal of the bike lanes", and not allow a single metre or kilometre of bike lane to be ripped out under provincial decree

5) Commit to using the city's full moral and legal authority to resist before and beyond should Bill 212 receive Royal Assent

This is not a left-right issue, and we refuse to engage in some bad faith cars v bikes culture war. Yes, not every trip is bikeable, and not every person will choose to ride a bike. But Torontonians need more healthy and convenient transportation options to help ease congestion, tackle pollution, and eliminate deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

Please protect our bike lanes, and keep building more for a sustainable future today.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Longfield", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Longfield
Executive Director

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

