

From: [Alison Stewart](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Cc: [Michael Longfield](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.IE10.3 on January 9, 2024 Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Date: January 8, 2024 3:01:49 PM
Attachments: [IE10.3 - Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes \(Ward All\) Cycle Toronto Jan 8 2024.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 9, 2024 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on item 2024.IE10.3, Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Please confirm the receipt of this email as well as it's addition to the public record once it is added to the agenda.

Warm regards,

Alison



Alison Stewart (she/they)

Director, Advocacy & Public Policy / Directrice, Sensibilisation et politique publique

Cycle Toronto
401 Richmond St. West, Office 215
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca
Support a Safe Cycling City for All: [Join](#) or [Donate](#)



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

January 8, 2024
Deputy Mayor McKelvie and members of IEC
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE10.3 - Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes (Ward All)

Dear Deputy Mayor and IEC Chair McKelvie and members of IEC,

Cycle Toronto supports the recommendation put forward by Councillor Saxe to direct the General Manager of Transportation to ensure that all reasonable steps to make all designated bike lanes safe and passable for bicycles during the winter season.

Because bikes have no outer protection and narrow tires, maintaining our roadways as "safe and passable" for bicycles requires they be cleared to bare pavement. This includes the accumulation of layers of snow, and slush, as well as wet leaves, construction debris and other types of items that pose a threat to the safe and comfortable maneuvering alongside larger motor vehicles, which are built to withstand rough all weather terrain.

Furthermore, many painted bikeways and contraflows are on quieter collector and residential streets that are lower on the city's priorities for winter maintenance despite their importance in the city's overall cycling network. Roads with bikeways must be prioritised for snow clearing regardless of their classification.

Additionally, Cycle Toronto urges members of IEC and City Council to prioritize the consistent clearance of all bikeways throughout the year:

- Contraflow lanes need the same attention that cycle tracks receive because there is only a painted line separating cyclists from motor vehicles.
- Leaves and construction debris must be routinely cleared from both the traffic curb lanes as well as all cycling infrastructure.
- Gutter edges of streets and roads with no cycling infrastructure must be safe and passable for the safety of people who bike all year round.

We understand that road clearing is a huge undertaking that takes multiple rounds of salting and plowing. Snow removal standards should prioritize clearing sidewalks, bike lanes and

transit stops over vehicular travel lanes. Safe conditions for a 2-ton vehicle simply aren't the same as those for a person on a bike.

With every winter comes snow. In order to achieve our TransformTO climate action goals, people should be able to walk, roll, or ride safely throughout the year, regardless of the season.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

Alison Stewart
Director, Advocacy and Public Policy

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