



Yonge4All is a diverse group of residents who live, work and shop in midtown Toronto. We believe that Yonge Street should be welcoming, safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, whether they walk, take transit, drive a car, ride a bike or use another mobility device.

January 8, 2024

RE: IE10.3 - Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes

To: Committee Chair McKelvie and members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Yonge4All strongly supports Councillor Saxe's recommendation that "Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to take all reasonable steps to make designated bike lanes safe and passable for bicycles during the winter season." We firmly agree with the statement that "no bike lane is 'safe and passable' unless it is cleared to bare pavement." Experience with the Midtown Yonge Complete Street underscores the need for a different standard for what is deemed "safe and passable" for people riding bicycles. Icy conditions result when temperatures dip below freezing due to piling up of slush, uncleared fall leaves, or pooling of melt water. This often occurs overnight or later in the day, making conditions unsafe for cycling during the morning and evening commute to work and school. These conditions are not unique to Midtown Yonge – they can be found in bike lanes across the City.

If Toronto is to make good on its Vision Zero and Climate Action commitments, it is imperative that bike lane maintenance is improved with the goal that all bike lanes are "safe and passable" year round for people riding bikes.

We ask for the following to be added to the definition of “safe and passable” for bike lanes:

- Snow, leaves, and ice to be removed to bare pavement for the full width of the lane
- Minimal salt applied to avoid damage to bicycles, animals, and Lake Ontario; grit preferred
- Windrows to be cleared out of bike lanes, not left blocking them at the ends of blocks or at driveways
- All curbs, flex-posts, bus ramps, and low wall barriers to be maintained in their existing location/condition, and replaced/repaired if damaged or moved
- Prohibition against pushing snow from sidewalks and private property into bike lanes

Lastly, we ask this committee to prioritize the clearing of sidewalks and bike lanes at or above the clearing of motor vehicle lanes. When motor vehicle lanes are cleared before bike lanes, the result is cyclists being forced to use the traffic lanes or sidewalks – a dangerous and frustrating situation for all.

We urge you to support **IE10.3 - Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes** and encourage City Council to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration,

Holly Reid

On behalf of Yonge4All

www.yonge4all.ca