



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

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March 26, 2024

Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC)  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W  
Toronto, M5H 2N2

**Re: IE12.7 - Major Snow Event Response Plan Update**

Dear Chair McKelvie and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Toronto is writing to express support for the work being done to prepare the city for weather emergencies, and look forward to being among the stakeholders and community interest groups that represent vulnerable road users.

**It is critical that the City's expanding network of cycling infrastructure remains accessible and safe year-round, as well as the entire active transportation network.** It's essential that the Major Snow Event Response Plan incorporate the recommendations from [IE10.3 - Bike Lanes that are Safe and Passable for Bikes](#) that bikeways be cleared to bare pavement, and the network of bike lanes and contraflows receive priority clearing regardless of their road classification.

The growing population that relies on active transportation paired with the growing incidence of extreme weather events demands that the City's policies, programs and procedures be able to adapt quickly. The safety and mobility of the city's most vulnerable residents must be prioritized over those with access to motor vehicles. For people walking, taking transit, cycling, and people who rely on mobility and visual aids to get around, when sidewalks, transit stops and bike lanes are poorly cleared of snow, ice and other types of weather detritus, getting around becomes impossible.

We look forward to being active participants in the stakeholder consultations to help the city develop a Major Snow Event Response Plan that will ensure the predictability and consistency of snow clearing and maintenance on all of our roadways and sidewalks. As more cyclists take advantage of Toronto's expanded cycling network and Bike Share program, the City of Toronto must ensure that the streets and sidewalks are accessible, passable and safe 365 days of the year.

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

Alison Stewart

Director, Advocacy and Public Policy

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

