

May 1, 2024

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

Re: IE13.2 - eglintonTOday Phase 1 Complete Street Project: Bicknell Avenue to Mount Pleasant Road (Ward 5, 8, 9, 12)

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

My name is Lanrick Bennett Jr. I've been the Bicycle Mayor for the City of Toronto since 2022. I've partnered with multiple organizations that all believe in making our communities safer and more sustainable for people across the city by improving access to affordable active modes of transportation.

I am joining them today to urge you to support the city staff recommendations outlined in IE13.2 to implement 8 km of new bikeways on Eglinton Ave. This will increase the number of multi-modal trips by connecting to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT as well as make the corridor safer for vulnerable road users.

The impending decision on the EglintonTOday Complete Street project holds significant implications for the safety and accessibility of Toronto's transportation network. The proposed installation of continuous cycle tracks along Eglinton Ave is not merely a matter of convenience; it is a crucial step towards prioritizing the safety and well-being of cyclists and pedestrians. Without the approval of these bikeways, the existing disconnected cycle tracks would not only lose their utility but also pose serious safety risks for cyclists. The closure of these segments would force cyclists to navigate through higher-speed motor vehicle lanes, exacerbating safety concerns and undermining efforts to promote active transportation modes. Therefore, we urge members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to consider the broader implications of their decision and prioritize the implementation of safe and connected cycling infrastructure on Eglinton Ave.

The 8 km of new bikeways outlined in this project is integral to completing the Council-approved 100 km 2022-2024 Cycling Network Plan this year, and it represents a critical step towards completing the 19 km of complete street that will connect people in Mount Dennis to Scarborough's Kennedy Station.

Furthermore, the approval of the EglintonTOday Complete Street project aligns with Toronto's broader commitment to sustainability and climate action. As highlighted in recent reports, Toronto is currently falling short of its climate action targets, posing significant challenges to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040. To address this pressing issue, it is imperative that the city accelerates its efforts to promote active transportation and reduce reliance on carbon-intensive modes of travel. By investing in projects like the Eglinton Ave bikeways, Toronto can make significant strides towards meeting its TransformTO goals and creating a more sustainable and equitable city for all residents. Therefore, I urge members of the Infrastructure and Environment

Committee to seize this opportunity to demonstrate leadership in advancing Toronto's climate agenda and vote in favor of the EglintonTOday Complete Street project.

Torontonians want a safer, more comfortable and vibrant public realm. In order to accomplish this we must ease traffic congestion and give people access to efficient and sustainable transportation options. Your vote for the eglintonTOday Complete Street is an important step towards achieving the city's commitment to improving the safety and connectivity for people who bike.

Studies consistently show the lack of safe, connected cycling network infrastructure remains the biggest barrier to people biking and adopting active modes of transportation. In order to meet our TransformTO climate action goals of 75% of trips walked, transited or biked by 2030—less than 7 years away—Toronto will need an even more ambitious 2025-2027 Cycling Network Plan.

I am in support of Cycle Toronto's call for at least 150 km total and an average of over 50 km of new bikeways a year to complete the 500 km of the Major City Wide Cycling Routes by 2030.

I hope to receive your unanimous support of the city staff recommendations outlined in IE13.2 to build a better Eglinton for all.

Cheers,



Lanrick Bennett Jr
Appointed the 1st [Bicycle Mayor of Toronto TO](#)
Equity, Civic Engagement & Protection of the Environment

Learn more about the Bicycle Mayor Program here <https://bycs.org/our-work/bicycle-mayor/>

