



May 1, 2024

Councillor J. McKelvie & Members of the
Infrastructure & Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

RE: Item IE 13.1 – Eglinton T0day Phase 1 Complete Street Project

I am writing to request that the Committee direct staff to establish a contingency snow *removal* fund for enhanced operations on Eglinton in future budgets of the Transportation Services Division to address the need to *remove* snow from the right-of-way when accumulations warrant the presence of snowbanks.

The proposed changes to Eglinton will remove traffic lanes, introduce physical barriers, new sightlines and continuous bike lanes which will exacerbate an annual issue of significant concern to local businesses, residents and road users when snow clearing operations build snowbanks during (most) winters. In the past, snow has been plowed from the traffic lanes and banked in parking areas, onto sidewalks and at corner intersections with side streets. This practice has long been a major access and safety issue for BIA's and others along Eglinton where access to and from the street is impaired for cars, delivery vehicles, transit riders and pedestrians serving our local businesses. Winters are tough enough for pedestrians, our restaurants and retailers without the loss of parking and the need to climb over snow banks to access the cleared sections of the sidewalk.

Given the fact that Eglinton will be reduced to just two traffic lanes with physically separated bike lanes; the only place that will be physically available to pile snow will be in the parking spaces, bus stops or at the entrances/exits to side streets.

During discussions regarding the implementation of Eglinton T0day, City staff have worked very diligently to protect spaces for parking, delivery zones, drop-offs and pick-up areas in recognition of their importance to maintaining the vitality of local businesses and the whole complete street concept. It would be a travesty if the necessary maintenance that will make the new street function as planned during some months of the year is not realized – in fact, it would be a failure on the City's part if the street does not function as planned for all parts of the year.

The report before you today references the fact that funding is available for the winter maintenance and sweeping of the bike lanes within the Transportation Services Operating Budget. However, it is our view that the changes to the roadway will necessitate enhanced snow removal services during some winter months and that eventuality should be added to the departments' budget in future years to ensure safe conditions for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists when new physical limitations in the roadway will surely affect street clearing and removal operations.

Maureen Sirois

Chair,

The Eglinton Way BIA