

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



November 12, 2024

Dear City Council and Mayor Olivia Chow

RE: Comments for 2024.MM23.14 for consideration on November 13, 2024

HVRA is a residents' association covering the area from Bloor to College and Bathurst to Spadina. We are deeply affected by changes to bike lanes proposed by the provincial government.

We are writing to express our support for the motion brought forward by Councillors Dianne Saxe and Amber Morley regarding Bill 212. As a residents' association deeply invested in the future of our city's infrastructure and governance, we believe it is imperative to address the concerns surrounding the proposed provincial overreach into municipal jurisdiction.

The provincial mandate requiring municipalities to seek approval before implementing new bike lanes significantly undermines local autonomy. Municipal governments, with their proximity to residents and an intricate understanding of community needs, are best suited to make decisions that balance traffic flow, active transportation, environmental protection, and public safety. The imposition of provincial oversight on matters that should be decided locally not only disregards the expertise of municipal planners but also diminishes the role of community input in shaping our urban landscape.

We strongly urge City Council to approve this motion and formally protest against the proposed section 195.2 of the Highway Traffic Act. It is crucial for the province to respect the jurisdiction of municipalities and trust in their ability to manage infrastructure in a manner that best serves their residents. Let's ensure that decisions impacting our city are made by those who know it best.

Sincerely,

Anne Fleming
Chair, Harbord Village Residents' Association
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