



November 12, 2024

Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and City Councillors,

Re: MM23.14 - Provincial Overreach and Toronto's Infrastructure

We fully support the motion brought by Councillors Dianne Saxe and Amber Morley to write a letter of protest to the Premier of Ontario about the overreach --- micromanaging and meddling --- in city decision-making of Bill 212.

When the 2.4 km Bloor Street bike lane pilot was made permanent in November 2017, it was only after what the city's Transportation Services Manager, Barbara Gray described as the most comprehensively studied road project in North America. Subsequent extensions have been the result of careful studies, community advocacy, public consultations, and council debate culminating in the approval of the Bloor West Complete Street Extension by City Council in a 21-1 vote in June, 2023.

Today, the Premier proposes to remove this and other bike lanes --- which also provide significant safety benefits to pedestrians --- with no research, no studies, and virtually no consultation, while relying on discredited "facts" that don't go beyond the frustrated rants one might hear in the local pub or coffee shop.

We appreciate that Bill 212 is not intended to be good public policy but is motivated as a vote-getter that plays to people's prejudices --- and the scapegoating of one road user group --- instead of as a proposal aimed at serious solutions to road congestion. In a year when six people riding bicycles in Toronto have been killed, Bill 212 can only be termed a callous willingness to trade lives for votes.

We expect more from our democratically elected institutions, and especially from the Premier of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Morley", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Albert Koehl, Coordinator

Cc The Hon. Premier Doug Ford

The Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Transportation Minister

Bonnie Crombie, Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario

Marit Stiles, Leader, NDP

Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario

Community Bikeways (est. May 2020) is a grassroots organization dedicated to holding City Hall to account for implementing its cycling network, Vision Zero Road Safety, and TransformTO climate plans. We also strive to amplify community voices, offer policy solutions, and host community events that highlight the joy, affordability, and convenience of cycling.