



PO Box 19057, RPO Walmer
Toronto, ON M5S 3C9
theara.org

Toronto City Council City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
councilmeeting@toronto.ca

November 12, 2024

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

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

The Annex Residents' Association (ARA) strongly encourages Toronto City Council to write to the Premier of Ontario protesting the astonishing overreach of Bill 212 and asking the Province to respect the city's jurisdiction to manage its own infrastructure and withdraw the proposed section 195.2 of the Highway Traffic Act.

The Ford Government's proposed changes to the Highway Traffic Act take away the power of municipalities to plan local transportation. **This proposal along with many others introduced throughout the term of the present government represents a massive overreach on municipal governance.** Bill 212 will effectively limit the tool kit municipal governments have to address issues that are important like cleaner air, eliminating serious injuries and fatalities from traffic collisions, and even tackling gridlock and congestion woes.

Given their local knowledge and access to community input, municipalities are the best governments to develop transportation plans that balance traffic flow with planning priorities like active transportation, multimodal transportation and environmental and health protection. Removing costly infrastructure that was the result of considerate planning and countless community and City consultations is both counterproductive and wasteful. Bike lanes reduce congestion by reducing use of cars. Taking out bike lanes will put more cars on the road, increase accidents, and hurt local businesses. It is a shocking waste of money at a time when the province has taken millions of dollars of Bill 23 funding away from the City.

Removing bike lanes will not only result in more cyclists dying but MORE traffic, not less.

The Ford Government is development friendly. It should be promoting more cycling infrastructure not less, because bike lanes help streets absorb increased density of use. They also enhance public safety, save the environment, increase the affordability of transportation and improve general quality of life. Cities across the globe are adding cycling infrastructure at a much faster pace than Toronto; they are certainly not ripping it out.

The ARA asks that City Council unanimously approve this motion and ask the Province to respect local governance and jurisdiction over bike lanes.

Sincerely,

Rita Bilerman
Chair, Annex Residents' Association

cc: Members of City Council
Councillor Dianne Saxe