



Nov. 12, 2024

Re: MM23.13 - Providing Safety and Convenience for Midtown Residents: Moving Forward with a Pedestrian Scramble at Yonge and Eglinton - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

Dear members of Toronto City Council,

Walk Toronto strongly supports MM21.13 to begin studying the feasibility of a pedestrian scramble intersection at Yonge and Eglinton, on the model of the existing scrambles at Yonge and Bloor and Yonge and Dundas, once the Eglinton Crosstown LRT is active.

Yonge and Eglinton is one of the intersections with the heaviest pedestrian traffic in Toronto. The number of pedestrians using this intersection far exceeds the number of drivers and passengers in motor vehicles. Once the Eglinton Crosstown is active, it will no longer be a major intersection for surface transit, so pedestrians will be even more dominant as the intersection's primary users.

On May 29, 2024 — the same day as the King & York count — a whopping 40,372 pedestrians were counted at the intersection. The volume of pedestrians at Yonge and Eglinton will continue to increase as numerous nearby major residential developments currently planned or underway reach completion.

Pedestrian scrambles at two other intersections on Yonge Street (Bloor and Dundas) have proven extremely popular, have improved safety by avoiding crowding, have improved mobility by enabling convenient pedestrian movements, and have also symbolized Toronto's commitment to treating pedestrians on an equal footing with other modes of transportation.

Where pedestrians are so dominant in number at an intersection, it makes sense to give them priority. Yonge and Eglinton is a prime candidate for a scramble intersection in the Toronto style (with pedestrians crossing during all phases, as well as the dedicated scramble phase) and we support the City of Toronto beginning the necessary work to implement this scramble as soon as the Eglinton Crosstown is active. We thank Councillors Matlow and Colle for their initiative in getting this process started.

Walk Toronto is a grassroots, volunteer advocacy group dedicated to making Toronto a better city for walking.

Dylan Reid

On behalf of Walk Toronto