

February 18, 2025

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

RE: IE19.1 - Cycling Network Plan: Ellesmere Complete Street Improvements

Dear **Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,**

On behalf of Centennial College, I am writing to support the adoption of IE19.1 and the recommendations to move forward with the proposed improvements outlined in the Ellesmere Complete Street project in Scarborough.

Centennial College is situated within this community, and the improvements to Ellesmere Road will directly benefit our students, faculty, and staff by offering safer, more convenient access to campus.

Completion of the project will make a big difference for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. The addition of sidewalks in previously unwalkable areas is a much-needed step toward creating a more pedestrian-safe and friendly environment. The focus on improving crosswalks and intersections, along with physically separated bike lanes, will encourage more people to use alternative modes of transportation to get to the university, college, hospital, or other destinations along Ellesmere reducing traffic congestion. Improved intersection designs will reduce speeding and force drivers to turn safely.

The Ellesmere Complete Street project is part of a larger network -it will bridge a major gap in the Meadoway trail, providing a direct connection between key areas, from the Don River to the Scarborough Zoo. That could make walking and cycling more appealing for both residents and visitors. The integration with the Highland Creek Trail and access to GO stations, the Waterfront Trail, and Lake Ontario will create a seamless experience for those traveling across the city. The connection to the future Scarborough subway extension and Scarborough Town Centre adds a level of convenience and accessibility. This project is a great step forward in transforming Scarborough into a more connected, walkable, and bike-friendly part of the city.

Sincerely,



Wenzi Kurshumova, PhD
Assoc Director Research, Centennial college