



February 24, 2025

Toronto City Hall
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2
Re: E19.1 2025 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - First Quarter Update

Dear Chair McKelvie and committee members,

The Walk Toronto Steering Committee offers this submission in strong support of item IE19.1 2025 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - First Quarter Update.

Walk Toronto fully supports the introduction of separated bike lanes such as those as proposed in this update on the 4.7 km of Bathurst Street in North York and 5.3 km on Ellesmere Road in Scarborough as they generally make walking safer. These bike lanes add a buffer between motor vehicles and pedestrians and typically slow vehicles making both right and left turns. In these two locations on Bathurst and Ellesmere, pedestrians are particularly at risk as vehicles tend to travel well above designated speed limits.

Walk Toronto is encouraged by the plans for Bathurst Street to add pedestrian mid-block crossings. We note from the study submitted by staff that there were almost three times the number of collisions with pedestrians as cyclists along this stretch. Any complete street redesign must recognize the statistically greater vulnerability of pedestrians. Furthermore, we support plans to create infrastructure between the cycle track and sidewalk in the form of landscaping or a bevelled curb to protect pedestrians, especially those with low or no vision.

For similar reasons, Walk Toronto is encouraged with the proposed changes along Ellesmere and hope that mid-block pedestrian crossings will be installed here as they are for Bathurst.

The proposal also includes building important new connections with bikeways on Bedford Road, Ontario Street, York Gate Boulevard, and new contraflow lanes as part of the Wallace-Emerson Neighborhood Streets Plan. While members of the Walk Toronto steering committee support such infrastructure, we are mindful that pedestrians may need signage to identify the possibility that people on bicycles will be coming from the opposite direction to vehicles, and cyclists would benefit from signage to remind them to look for and give right of way to pedestrians.

Walk Toronto is encouraged that none of these projects recommend removing vehicle travel lanes and should not be in danger of removal as per Bill 212 recently passed by provincial legislature.

I urge you to approve these projects and to keep Toronto committed to its VisionZero and TransformTO goals.

Sincerely,

Lee Scott, Member, Steering Committee, Walk Toronto info@walktoronto.ca

cc. Cllrs McKelvie, Lin, Colle, Morley, Pasternak, Perruzza, Saxe

