



Thursday, July 6, 2023

Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services  
Toronto City Hall, 24th Floor E  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

*Submitted by e-mail to barbara.gray@toronto.ca*

Dear Ms. Gray,

**RE: Cyclist Safety During Adelaide Street Construction**

We write to express our concerns and the urgent need to address road dangers for people who bike on Adelaide Street during ongoing construction work.

Last month saw the City of Toronto's Transportation Services department start construction along Adelaide Street including the relocation of the cycle tracks from the south side to the north. We appreciate this move would allow for protection to be made continuous along the entire bikeway, as opposed to the current gap between York and Yonge Streets caused by heavy loading activity in front of First Canadian Place and Scotia Plaza.

Accommodating people who bike through construction zones has been a longstanding issue for this city. In the case of Adelaide Street, we noticed the existing cycle tracks on the south side were closed off without completing the relocation to the north side with barriers; thus placing people who bike in undue danger and the City in violation of their Vision Zero principles. We have heard a lot of reports of motorists parking in bike lanes due to the confusion this construction has caused.

The proper treatment for Adelaide would have been to keep the existing cycle track open until the new north side one was ready to use. If this were deemed to be impractical, then the City has the obligation to provide an adequate detour which would have been possible using the recently installed Wellington Street bike lanes from Bathurst Street to Spadina Avenue. Since the new north side cycle tracks were painted in from Bathurst to York Streets as of Tuesday, July 4, we urge you to immediately place construction pylons in the buffer zone until the permanent barriers can be installed.

Per the City of Toronto's construction notice, work between Victoria and Parliament Streets would begin in mid-July, but a bike lane closed sign was already spotted at Victoria on Tuesday. We call on you to immediately reopen the south side cycle track east of Victoria and keep it open until the north side ones are ready. If this is not possible, we recommend a detour along either Shuter Street to the north or Esplanade-Mill to the south.

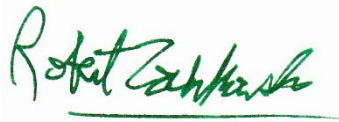
Perhaps the most significant concern is the stretch from York to Victoria Streets which will undergo construction until Spring 2024 to accommodate the diversion of the Queen streetcar during the Ontario

Line construction. Unlike west and east of this area which have alternate routes less than 500 metres away, the nearest cycling facilities between York and Victoria are located roughly one kilometre away on Gerrard Street to the north and Queens Quay to the south. Given the distances to these streets are considerably longer than the 575-metre stretch from York to Victoria Streets; providing detours there would be impractical and additional safety precautions are needed to protect those who bike. We are also concerned about the transitions at both streets between the north and south sides of the street which would lead to unnecessary waiting for additional traffic light cycles.

As we have argued in our letter dated September 15, 2022 regarding the cycle track closure on Queen's Park, Toronto lacks a uniform, consistent process to provide safe alternatives for people walking or cycling through construction zones. We know the City has made proper accommodations through construction zones before and call on you to ensure this process is made consistent for all future construction projects affecting cycling infrastructure.

We thank you for acknowledging these concerns and would be open to discussing them with you or your staff further.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Zaichkowski  
*Community Bikeways (TCBC)*

CC: Councillor Ausma Malik  
Steven Ziegler (Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Adelaide Street Construction Project)  
Jacquelyn Hayward (Director, Project Design & Management)  
Craig Cripps (Manager, Work Zone Coordination)  
Becky Katz (Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Programs)