



September 14, 2023

Mayor Olivia Chow
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ont M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow,

Re: Congratulations ...

Congratulations on your recent election to the city's highest elected office. We are very happy to see the mayor's chair occupied by a person with a proven understanding of the importance of walking, cycling, and mass transit to an efficient, healthy, clean transportation system.

[Community Bikeways](#) was established in June 2020 during the global pandemic as an initiative to ensure that the transportation needs of essential workers and other transit reliant residents were met. At the time, we rallied [broad-based community support](#) to call for the installation of 100 kilometres of temporary bikeways to mirror the busiest TTC routes. More recently, we have transitioned into the role of holding City Hall to account for its climate, cycling, and road safety plans and policies.

We look forward to working with you, and to continue working with councillors and city staff, to ensure our city achieves high levels of road safety, cycling infrastructure, and climate action.

In particular, our group is focusing on three priorities:

1. Full implementation of the existing bike plan (2022-24), including installation of cross-town bike lanes on Bloor-Danforth-Kingston and Yonge Street by the end of this council term;
2. Addressing the safety needs of vulnerable road users during road construction projects that impinge on sidewalks and bikeways; and
3. Leveraging new technologies and approaches in dealing with the ongoing problem of illegal parking in bike lanes, endangering city residents that get around by bicycle.

Community Bikeways also leads a number of community coalitions:

[C.R.A.S.H. \(Coalition to Reduce Auto Size Harms\)](#). This Ontario-wide coalition is calling for the intervention of governments at all levels to curtail the use of oversized passenger vehicles, namely pickups and large SUVs, that are known to be significantly more dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists. Our recommendations will be published later this year.

[G.E.T. \(Gardiner East Transparency\)](#). This city-wide coalition of grassroots road safety and climate groups is dedicated to obtaining updated information on the costs and foregone revenues of the Gardiner East rebuild, along with an assessment of feasible design alternatives.


Toronto Road Safety Collaborative. This initiative regularly brings together road safety groups from across the city to explore opportunities to collaborate, to discuss ideas, and to network.

[Road Safety Calls to Action.](#) During the 2022 municipal election, this initiative brought together 16 grassroots groups to call for a commitment from candidates to three specific road safety calls to action. Among the 40 candidates who committed to these calls to action, twelve were elected in the October elections.

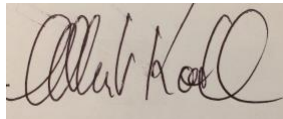
We hope that you and your staff will feel free to reach out to us for feedback, and to treat us as a resource on matters relating to road safety, cycling infrastructure, and healthy, climate-friendly transportation. Our volunteers bring a range of professional backgrounds, and we pride ourselves on advocacy informed by thorough research, careful attention to facts, and thoughtful analysis.

Finally, we wish you every success in your mayoralty, and in your work to create a better city.

Sincerely,



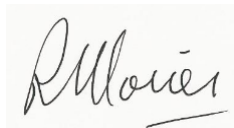
Mary Ann Neary, Coordinator



Albert Koehl, Coordinator



Jessie Ye, Steering Committee



Roger Morier, Communications & Outreach