



Friday, March 17, 2023

Infrastructure & Environment Committee
c/o Matthew Green
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

*Submitted by e-mail to iec@toronto.ca
clerk@toronto.ca*

Dear Deputy Mayor and Chair McKelvie, and
Members of the Infrastructure & Environment Committee,

**RE: IEC Meeting of March 20, 2023
Motion IE2.7 (College Street Bikeways Extension)**

As you may know, Community Bikeways (TCBC) is a community-based advocacy organization established in 2020 in response to the need for better and more complete safe transportation alternatives for the citizens of Toronto. Our vision is that of a city that prioritizes people, community, and climate by providing safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation infrastructure and services that work for everyone.

To that end, we write to offer our strong support to Motion IE2.7 requesting the study and preparation of a near term implementation cycling and pedestrian project on College Street between Lansdowne Avenue and Manning Avenue in the next Near Term Cycling Network Plan (2025-2027).

Motion IE2.7 is a natural follow-up to City Council's April 7, 2022 decision to upgrade College Street and include the installation of separated cycle tracks from Manning Avenue to Bay Street. That decision was necessary and welcome. It was necessary if we are to achieve the TransformTO goal of having 75 per cent of school/work trips under 5km walked, biked, or carried out by public transit by 2030. It was welcome because it modeled smart and committed leadership by City Council to tackle an issue that affects all citizens of the city and those visiting it. It was, and remains, aligned with city's declaration in 2019 of a climate emergency and responds to (then) Councillor McKelvie's declaration that "Our response to this crisis will define this generation."

Envisioning, planning, and implementing a safe bikeway corridor along College Street from Bay to Lansdowne will have multiple benefits:

- More and more cyclists will be able to move more safely and efficiently from the city centre to residential, office, and commercial areas in the west end and further into Etobicoke and Mississauga;
- Businesses along College and adjoining streets will (as multiple studies show) benefit from an increase in the number of cyclist customers who, on average, tend to visit more often and spend more money;
- The climate will benefit as more people feel comfortable enough to leave their cars and use safe cycling infrastructure for many of the short trips they currently make in automobiles; and
- Motorists themselves will benefit as more bike riders leads to less road congestion, thereby improving transportation times for everyone.

Extending bikeways westward on College from Manning Avenue will also enable easier, safer access to the City's north-south cycling routes currently installed or planned (for example, the bike route along Shaw Street, the Bartlett-Havelock-Gladstone contraflow corridor, the Lansdowne bike lanes, and the West Toronto Railpath). We also request that you undertake plans to extend bike lanes on Dundas further to the northwest from Sorauren Avenue, enabling a connection with the existing Bloor Street lanes. All of this will mean a more seamless and consistent cycling network across Toronto instead of what has been described as a "hodgepodge" of cycle paths and bike lanes that frustrate pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

We wish to thank the IEC for its continued work on this file as we look forward to, one day, inaugurating with you a new, safe, and efficient east-west bikeway along the full length of College Street.

Respectfully,



Roger Morier
Community Bikeways (TCBC)

cc: [Councillor Bravo@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Bravo@toronto.ca)
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