



September 17, 2020

Maogosha Pyjor
Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
Metro Hall
55 John Street, 19th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3C6

Dear Ms. Pyjor,

Re: our feedback on yongeTOmorrow design

We commend the yongeTOmorrow team for their work on the updated design. We are especially pleased to see protected bike lanes on Yonge St., from College to Gerrard Streets, included in the recommended design, which we believe is a significant improvement from the previous public consultations. We fully support the pedestrianization of Yonge St. and believe that the provision of a bike lane is both feasible and highly desirable in this process and as part of a continuous, cross-town, north-south spine for the city's cycling network.

The Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition, established in June 2020, includes a diverse group of community advocates who believe that the city urgently needs new bikeways, including to the inner suburbs along the busiest TTC bus routes and cross-town along the Yonge and Bloor-Danforth subways. We take our inspiration from a letter signed by 120 community groups calling for 100 km of new bikeways as part of the response to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic. This demand was also supported by a petition signed by 5,500 people.

We remain concerned with the proposed Yonge St. design from Shuter to Queen Streets given that two motor traffic lanes are contemplated with no consideration for people who bike. We believe such a design would unnecessarily undermine the much needed, continuous, north-south cycling network spine from the Waterfront to Steeles Ave. to relieve congestion on the TTC both during and after the pandemic. We urge you to include a bike lane along the entire yongeTOmorrow project. We question the need for any motor access to Yonge St. except for deliveries, emergencies, and other very limited, occasional purposes. **Surely the 5,600 km road network in the city can afford to have one stretch of roadway that is free of motor traffic to the benefit of residents on foot and on bikes. As you know, pedestrian and cycling traffic has grown dramatically in Toronto since the revitalization of Yonge St. was first studied a half century ago in the 1970s.**

We are also concerned about the lack of protection on the Shuter St. bike lane between Yonge and Bond Streets. While ongoing reconstruction and bike lane upgrades are occurring east of Bond, nothing has been proposed west of Bond where the bike lane is regularly breached by ride-sharing services such as

Uber and Lyft and other motorists. We believe upgrading the Shuter bike lane from Yonge to Bond needs to be included as part of yongeTOmorrow (or sooner) to ensure people can bike safely in the area.

We understand that the owner of the Eaton Centre is demanding two-way motor traffic between Queen and Dundas Streets on Yonge. We believe that this demand would be fundamentally inconsistent with a pedestrianization of Yonge St. We also note the particular danger from right-turning cars and trucks to people on foot or on bikes at the corner of Yonge and Queen. A revitalized Yonge St. will attract far more people than is currently possible with the significant dedication of public road space to motor vehicles. We look forward to the day when iconic Yonge St. will regain its place among our city's premier destinations. This cannot be achieved with two lanes of motor traffic in the midst of many thousands of people on foot and on bikes.

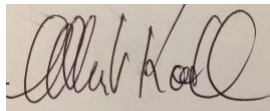
Finally, we are concerned about the timing of construction which is not expected to start before 2023. Given this delay and the likelihood of the pandemic continuing into 2021, we urge the city to implement pilot pedestrian zones and protected bike lanes along Yonge St. as soon as possible, and no later than next year. This would also allow the city to make adjustments during the detailed design process, as well as relieving the Yonge subway during and after the pandemic. Finally, we encourage the city to start public consultations for Phase 2 of yongeTOmorrow from College to Davenport as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. Please let us know if you require any clarification of our comments.

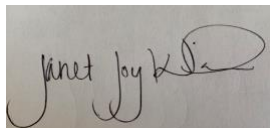
Sincerely,



Mary Ann Neary



Albert Koehl



Janet Joy Wilson

cc. Kristyn Wong-Tam