

Attn: City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC)

January 14th, 2015

To the Committee,

The Ontario Institute for Education (OISE) Sustainability committee, together with the OISE Graduate Students' Association (GSA), would like to express its support for a pilot project for protected bicycle lanes on Bloor Street between Shaw Street and Avenue Road.

The GSA represents over 2400 graduate students at the University of Toronto, and the OISE building is located directly on Bloor Street. We believe that the bicycle lanes would provide enhanced cycling access, as well as traffic calming, to the northern part of the UofT campus, in the same way that College St does for the southern part of campus. This would be of particular benefit to OISE students, given the location of our institute on Bloor Street.

Many of our students cycle to school, and this pilot project would give them the opportunity to travel on dedicated lanes that are safer and faster than the routes they currently take. Bloor Street is quite congested in terms of construction, pedestrian, and automobile traffic, and this makes it a difficult street to navigate for cyclists. These lanes would truly make life for our students easier, and would hopefully encourage more of them to use their bicycles to get to school. Environmentally, students cycling to school means less emissions, and less crowding on the streets and TTC. It also costs significantly less than other modes of transportation, which is an important consideration for students who are struggling financially.

The City of Toronto has already made great improvements to cycling infrastructure in recent years, and the OISE community sincerely hopes that you will continue expanding the Toronto cycling network to include safe lanes on Bloor Street.

Thank you for your consideration of our statement, and we look forward to your final recommendations to Council.

Sincerely,

The OISE Sustainability Committee and Graduate Students' Association