



March 23, 2016

City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
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To The Committee:

The West Bend Community Association encourages shared use of Toronto's roadways. The Association is a strong supporter of Cycle Toronto, and encourages the implementation of a safe and expansive Toronto bicycle network. The West Bend Community Association would like to express its support for the pilot project for protected bicycle lanes on Bloor Street between Shaw Street and Avenue Road with a strong interest in seeing the project extend as far west as Keele and High Park.

The West Bend Neighbourhood is located northeast of High Park; bounded by Bloor, Keele, and the Kitchener GO rail corridor. It is home to many cyclists that enjoy excellent access to the West Toronto Railpath and the many trails in High Park. The neighbourhood is within practical commuting distance from downtown and many local residents have completely forgone the need for cars.

Good quality transit, incorporating cycling, supports a higher quality of life and facilitates the population density and diversity that make a healthy community. A safe bicycle route connecting High Park, the West Toronto Railpath, and continuing to downtown along Bloor will enable and encourage many more West End residents to adopt this healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transportation for both practical and recreational uses.

The data that will be gathered through this pilot project is invaluable for understanding and ensuring we make the most effective use of our limited urban roadways. We are confident the pilot project will reinforce the findings from other studies that show any negative impact to traffic and businesses will be minimal and more than offset by the benefits of improved accessibility, sustainability, and overall transit efficiency.

We encourage the committee to approve the Bloor Bike Lanes pilot project and furthermore to support and promote its westward expansion. We thank you for your consideration, and look forward to the continued diversification and enhancement of Toronto's transportation network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Noronha", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Timothy Noronha
Chairperson
The West Bend Community Association
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