



**Complete
Streets**

tcat toronto centre for
active transportation 



June 18th, 2013

RE: June 19th Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Dear Chairman Minnan-Wong and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of Clean Air Partnership. TCAT conducts research and education that supports a vision for cities that are safe, convenient, and enjoyable communities to walk and bike.

On the 19th of June you will address a motion to extend the Bay Street bike lanes south of Bloor Street. This will fill a gap in the cycling network and help Toronto to reach its active transportation mode share goals as set out in the Bike Plan vision to “create a safe, comfortable and bicycle friendly environment in Toronto, which encourages people of all ages to use bicycles for everyday transportation and enjoyment”. I would like to express the support of TCAT PW24.7 Extending the Bay Street Bicycle Lanes.

Extensive research has been performed on the influence of street design and the built environment on the willingness of individuals to choose to use a bicycle as their mode of transportation. Studies have found that individual cyclists have different levels of traffic stress that they are willing to tolerate before they will switch to another mode (car, transit, walking), and that a given cycling trip is as stressful as its most stressful link. Connecting cycling infrastructure such as bike lanes, priority lanes, and sharrows, helps to reduce traffic stress and make links in the traffic network accessible to larger numbers of potential riders, and is an important step in building a comprehensive cycling network.

This extension of the Bay Street bicycle lane to connect the existing bicycle lanes north of Cumberland with the planned sharrows south of Bloor is a key gap to close in the cycling network, and a key step for Toronto to make in continuing to encourage a mode shift towards active transportation.

We advise that the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee adopt this motion, helping Toronto to build on its history of encouraging cycling, and making streets welcoming to all Torontonians.

Sincerely,



Nancy Smith Lea
Director
Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)
Clean Air Partnership

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