



Monday, June 5, 2023

General Committee
 c/o Allyson D'Ovidio
 Mississauga City Hall
 300 City Centre Drive
 Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1

Submitted by e-mail to allyson.dovidio@mississauga.ca

Dear Mayor Bonnie Crombie & Members of Mississauga's General Committee:

RE: Item 10.1 (Bloor Street Integrated Project)

Community Bikeways was established after the outset of the pandemic in 2020 to advocate for new bikeways to mirror transit for the benefit of essential workers and transit-reliant residents. Our work has transitioned to a focus on holding Toronto City Hall to account for its cycling, road safety, and climate goals. We fully support the staff recommendation to pursue Alternative 6 for the Bloor Street Integrated Project in Mississauga which would see the street narrowed to two traffic lanes and one traffic lane; along with the addition of protected bike lanes from Etobicoke Creek to Central Parkway.

The City of Toronto is currently seeking council approval for its own Bloor West Complete Street Extension project which would extend the Bloor-Danforth complete street west from Runnymede Road to Aberfoyle Crescent this year and onwards to the Six Points intersection at Kipling Avenue next year. Should both current proposals from Mississauga and Toronto be approved, this would leave a four kilometre bikeway gap between Six Points and Etobicoke Creek. A gap which our group is calling on Toronto to have filled to ensure a continuous bikeway along Bloor Street on both sides of Etobicoke Creek.

One advantage Alternative 6 offers is its similarity to the City of Toronto's proposal for Bloor Street from Beamish Drive to Mill Road (just east of Etobicoke Creek) dated back to August 2009¹, though approval for the stretch from Mill Road to The East Mall was rescinded in July 2011². Despite this setback, we believe Alternative 6 would make installation of a complete street on Bloor Street from Six Points to Etobicoke Creek easier than some of the earlier proposals which would have called for four traffic lanes. One thing that would need to be updated is the bike lanes would need to be upgraded with protection.

Since the Bloor Street bike lanes were first installed from Shaw Street to Avenue Road in 2016, the street had become safer for all road users with fewer collisions, cycling volumes have increased significantly to become one of Toronto's busiest bikeways, and business activity has increased. These benefits have continued as the bikeway was extended west to Runnymede Road and east along Danforth Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue; thus forming a 16 kilometre continuous bikeway. Our group conducted counts along four different parts of Bloor Street in August 2021 which found the parts which had protected bike lanes

¹ <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2009.PW25.20>

² <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2011.PW5.1>

(e.g. Yorkville, Runnymede Road) had less than 5% of cyclists riding on sidewalks compared to over 30% for the parts that didn't (e.g. Royal York Road, Islington Avenue). While this can serve as proof that protected bike lanes make pedestrians feel safer with reduced sidewalk riding, drivers also feel safer given they are better able to predict the presence of cyclists with the presence of protected bike lanes.

We would like to thank the City of Mississauga staff for all their hard work with the Bloor Street Integrated Project, including developing the recommended solution and their professional dealing with certain residents who had concerns with the project. We would also like to thank Mississauga Cycling Now! and other advocates in Mississauga for their work in demanding safe streets in Mississauga. Including when we organized a joint ride along Bloor Street in March 2022 which saw 80 to 100 people take park.

Given Alternative 6 for the Bloor Street Integrated Project would make the street safer for all road users and help address climate action, we call on Mississauga's General Committee (and City Council) to adopt the staff recommendation for this project. We thank you for considering our submission and feel free to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Zaichkowski
Community Bikeways (TCBC)

CC: Jeffrey Reid (Manager, Transportation Projects, City of Mississauga)
Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie
Mississauga Councillors Chris Fonseca and John Kovac
Toronto Councillors Amber Morley and Stephen Holyday
Becky Katz (Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Projects, City of Toronto)
Mississauga Cycling Now!