



LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.
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10 April 2020

VIA EMAIL:

Councillor_colle8@toronto.ca

Dear Councillor Colle:

City Opportunity to Offer a Physically-Distancing Commute Option, Promote Cycling, and Encourage Physical Exercise

In the midst of our COVID challenges and disruption, we see an opportunity!

On roads such as Yonge Street that has three lanes in each direction, we could dedicate one lane in each direction for bikes.

Why do this?

→ Encourage people to use their bike instead of public transit. Although people need to use public transit to get around, we should be offloading trips away from public transit as much as possible, onto walking and biking, so those people who absolutely need to use transit can use it more safely.

→ Biking permits better physical distancing than public transit, making it a safer mode both for essential workers now and for all workers as we eventually ease back to work.

→ This will help encourage non-bikers to take up cycling. Let's get more people to embrace cycling!

→ This is an opportune time to expand the cycling network with minimal disruption to cars. North Toronto is missing key north-south bike routes.

→ Increased cycling opportunities will promote exercise and reduce carbon emissions.

Ideas to Implement:

→ Dedicated lanes should be easy to implement on Yonge Street in Midtown which generally has three lanes in each direction. Initially the City might just paint the bike lanes to identify them, although a physical barrier such as bollards or planters would be a much safer means to prevent motor vehicles from entering into bike lanes. At this time, Yonge is not carrying anywhere near the commuter traffic of normal days, and on-street parking is minimally used.

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization ("LPRO") is an incorporated non-profit association founded in 1987, representing member households from Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue.

<https://lpro.wordpress.com>

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The City could promote this as a good-news, trial initiative. If this is successful it could be expanded.

Looking ahead, the City needs to anticipate and prepare for a new reality. How we move safely around the city will be part of that change.

We therefore request that the City convert minimally used road lanes into bike lanes for people to use safely while maintaining essential physical distancing.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Maureen Kapral
Vice-President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization

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