



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yonge4All Comments on IEC vote to make Midtown Yonge Complete Street Pilot Permanent

Residents, businesses and neighbourhood organizations show up at City Hall in support of pilot

Toronto, February 2, 2023 – On January 30, community advocacy group [Yonge4All](#), which has been championing the [ActiveTO Midtown Yonge Complete Street pilot project](#) since it launched, was thrilled to see the members of the City’s Infrastructure and Environment Committee give their unanimous support of Councillor Dianne Saxe’s motion to make the pilot project a permanent part of the Midtown and the City’s active transportation network.

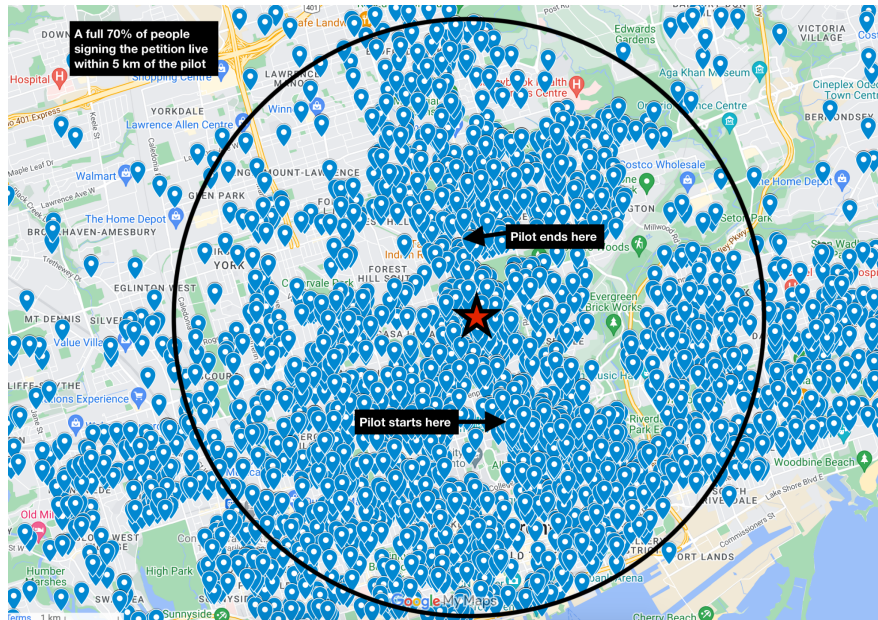
After hearing depositions from 64 speakers in favour of the project and 26 opposed, Councillors Amber Morley, Mike Colle, Jennifer McKelvie, Anthony Perruzza, and Dianne Saxe voted 5-0 to approve the motion with an amendment to ask Transportation Services to study options to improve safety of residents on nearby residential streets.

“We applaud the committee for their commitment to the City’s TransformTO and Vision Zero goals, while taking action on the concerns of nearby residents,” says Robin Richardson, a volunteer with Yonge4All. “We are optimistic that City Council will share the IEC’s forward-looking vision when they vote on this when they meet on February 7 and 8.”

Among those speaking in favour of the project to the committee were:

- Development firm [Tenblock](#), which is building at the south end of the pilot area
- [Bloor Annex BIA](#), which has members who have seen sales increase since the Bloor bike lanes were installed
- [David Suzuki Foundation](#), which shared information about the environmental benefits of diverse transportation options
- [Friends and Families for Safe Streets](#), which addressed the significant physical and mental health benefits of safe street infrastructure
- And Torontonians ranging in age from 8 to over 80, who spoke in support of safer ways to explore and enjoy their neighbourhoods.

Almost 8,000 Toronto residents have signed the [Yonge4All petition](#) asking for the pilot project to be made permanent. Forty percent of them live within 3 kilometres of the pilot area; 70 percent live within 5 km (see accompanying graphic for a visual representation of that data).



They are joined in celebrating the IEC decision by numerous road safety, environmental, and community groups, including [TTC Riders](#), [880 Cities](#) and [Walk Toronto](#), as well as local [residents associations, community groups](#) and small businesses, including [889 Yoga](#), [Ava Pharmacy](#) and [B Stretched](#).

Among the benefits the City's [staff report](#) of the pilot reveals are:

- Increases in cycling trips (ranging between 57% and 250%) and increases in pedestrian trips (ranging between 59% and 145%)
- Support for local business (CaféTO patios increased to 21 patios on the corridor in 2022 from 10 in 2020)
- Average motor vehicle travel times in both directions on Yonge Street in Midtown have increased by less than 70 seconds

Yonge4All is a diverse group of residents who live, work and shop in midtown Toronto. We believe that Yonge Street should be welcoming, safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, whether they walk, take transit, drive a car, ride a bike or use another mobility device. To learn more about the group, please visit yonge4all.ca.

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact:

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