

Hello,

My name is Andrea Garcia and I am the Director of Advocacy for the Toronto Cyclists Union. We are the city's only member-based organization advocating for safer and healthier streets. I am writing to you on behalf of the Toronto Cyclists Union to request that the Seaton Village Residents Association endorse the network of bicycle lanes separated from traffic that was proposed by the Toronto Cyclists Union this past summer and is now supported by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, the new Chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee of Toronto City Council.

The proposal is supported by several downtown Toronto resident and student groups, including the Toronto Island Community Association, the York Quay Neighbourhood Association, the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the ABC (Yorkville) Residents Association and the Bay Cloverhill Community Association. Together, these endorsements represent over 20,000 people.

This initiative calls for two east/west routes along Richmond Street and Harbord/Wellesley Streets, as well as two north/south routes along Sherbourne Street and a St. George/Beverley Street connection to Simcoe Street, via John Street and Richmond Street. To get a better idea of what the proposed network may look like, please see this map.

Separated bicycle lanes have been proven in New York City to significantly reduce serious pedestrian injuries on the streets they are installed in. A recent study in New York found a 40% reduction in all collisions after the implementation of a separated bike lane. That means drivers, cyclists and pedestrians were safer thanks to the implementation of this type of bicycle lane.

This is the first time in Toronto's history that support has coalesced behind a specific proposal for a continuous separated network of bicycle lanes in the City of Toronto. We need your association's support to convince City Council of the merit of this proposal and its objective, which is safer streets for Toronto residents. If your Board is interested in endorsing this proposal please send an email to [pwic@toronto.ca](mailto:pwic@toronto.ca) and your Councillor ([councillor\\_vaughan@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca)) advising of your association's support. I have attached a template which you might consider using for your e-mail, as well as an image of the proposed network which you can send with the e-mail.