

Dear Ministry of Transportation,

I respectfully but firmly disagree with the proposals in Bill 212:

1. to add extra Provincial oversight for new municipal bike lanes
2. to convert bike lanes on major downtown Toronto roads (Bloor, Yonge, and University) back into motor vehicle traffic lanes

I have lived in Toronto for 33 years, and the city's downtown for four years. I've ridden my bike on city roads many times. I believe the proposals in Bill 212 are problematic for the following reasons: safety, health, ineffectiveness at reducing gridlock, and environment.

Roads with dedicated bike lanes are far safer for cyclists. As a child, my wife was hit by a car from behind while riding a bike, suffered a concussion, and still carries a scar today on her face almost three decades later. Many times my father came home dripping blood after a bike accident on Toronto roads. I often wondered if his love of cycling would become his eulogy. Please don't make these avoidable accidents happen to thousands of other Torontonians by taking away their bike lanes.

We know that regular exercise is key to maintaining health. As someone with a chronic knee injury, riding a bike is one the forms of exercise I can do that doesn't aggravate my condition. The proposals in Bill 212 would harm my health by limiting my ability to bike around. Please help keep me and thousands of others in similar positions healthy.

Cars occupy a disproportionate amount of space on roads compared to bicycles. While the stated motivation of Bill 212 is to reduce gridlock, I firmly believe that discouraging bike traffic would actually increase gridlock instead. If you make it harder to safely ride my bike (which occupies 5 square feet of road space), I would be forced to drive my car (which occupies over 100 square feet of road space) far more often. My wife often prefers to drive our car because Toronto doesn't have enough bike lanes on our roads for her to feel safe on a bike. Please don't force us cyclists to make commuting choices that end up making gridlock worse.

Finally, we Canadians are proud of our efforts to preserve our planet's environment and fight global warming. By restricting or removing Toronto's bike lanes, you will be encouraging more cars on the road and this will create more greenhouse emissions. Please let us keep our planet green and our winters white by allowing us safe places to bike.

Thus, I implore you to cancel the efforts to remove the bike lanes on major downtown Toronto roads, and I ask you to let the city of Toronto decide where it needs bike lanes without Provincial oversight.

Sincerely,

Anonymous

Lifetime resident of Toronto and recent resident of downtown. Avid cyclist alongside friends and family.