

Jason Thorne, MCIP, RPPChief Planner and Executive
Director, **City Planning**

Ashley Curtis General Manager (A) Transportation Services

City Hall 100 Queen Street West

12th Floor, East Tower Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2 **Tel:** 416 392-8772 Jason.Thorne@toronto.ca 22nd Floor, East Tower Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2 **Tel:** 416 392-0170 Ashley.Curtis@toronto.ca

November 21, 2025

Ministry of Transportation

RE: Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 – Modern Transportation – Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes (ERO 025-1071)

On behalf of the City of Toronto, we are pleased to submit the City's comments on the proposed amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act*, 1990.

On November 12th and 13th, City Council expressed its opposition to the proposed amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act*, 1990 to prohibit vehicle lane reductions for new bicycle lanes. City Council <u>requests</u> that the Province work collaboratively with cities to address congestion and road safety, and to clarify that municipalities have the authority to determine what is in the public interest. Below is a summary of the City's comments.

- The proposed amendments to the Act will negatively impact the City's ability to achieve the policies identified in its Official Plan.
- There is growing evidence that suggests providing multiple mobility options is an
 effective way to reduce congestion and lower the environmental impacts from
 transportation. Preventing the ability of a municipality to reallocate space within its
 public right-of-way will limit how municipalities can provide multi-modal
 transportation choices. This has the risk of perpetuating traffic conditions that the
 proposed amendment is trying to alleviate.
- The proposed amendments conflict with the ability for the City to achieve actions identified in section 5.3 of the <u>Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan</u> to "create a safe, connected, and comprehensive active transportation network".
- The proposed amendments will impede the City's ability to improve road safety and reduce serious injuries and fatalities on City streets. Independent peer-reviewed research has shown that the introduction of separated bikeways reduces the risk of cycling injury, particularly on major streets, and reduces collision risk for everyone using the roads, including drivers.
- The City of Toronto has established a Net Zero Strategy goal that by 2030, 75% of school and work trips under five kilometres are walked, biked, or taken by transit. In order to meet these ambitious goals, the City would need to dramatically expand and improve the cycling network, expand transit networks, and continue to build transit oriented communities.

M Toronto

• There are significant concerns with the provision for future regulations to prohibit any vehicle lane reductions. This could impact the City's ability to provide rapid transit, widen sidewalks, or utilize the right-of-way for other purposes that may achieve the same intended outcomes of the Bill.

Further information on the City's comments regarding the Bill 212 Bike Lane Framework and associated changes to the Highway Traffic Act which continue to be relevant to the proposed *Highway Traffic Act* Amendments within Bill 60 are contained within this <u>report</u>.

Should you have any questions regarding the City's submission or would like to arrange a meeting with City staff, please contact:

James Perttula, Director, Transportation Planning, City Planning (James.Pertulla@toronto.ca;416-392-4744)

Jacquelyn Hayward, Director, Planning, Design & Management, Transportation Services (<u>Jacquelyn.Hayward@toronto.ca</u>; 416-392-5348).

The City of Toronto is committed to continue to work collaboratively with the Province to address traffic congestion and road safety.

Jason Thorne, MCIP, RPP Chief Planner and Executive Director City Planning Ashley Curtis General Manager (A) Transportation Services

