

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2020

**Statement from Local Councillors Joe Cressy and Mike Layton on New Bike Lanes on University Avenue**

Today, we welcome the installation of new protected bike lanes on University Avenue and through Queen’s Park Crescent. These lanes are part of 25 kilometres of new cycling infrastructure approved by City Council at the end of May, as part of the City’s ActiveTO program. The bike lanes on University Avenue run from Bloor Street to Adelaide Street.

We have long advocated for safe, protected bike lanes on University Avenue, alongside major hospitals in the area, including SickKids and University Health Network, who released letters in support of the University bike lanes. Members of the group Doctors for Safe Cycling, some of whom work in the area’s hospitals, have also highlighted the importance of the lanes in enabling health care workers, staff, and clients to safely get to work and access the area’s health care facilities.

We know that in order for more people to cycle safely, we need to build a city-wide grid of bike lanes, so that riders can make long trips to work or school without putting their safety at risk. The new bike lanes on University Avenue will connect to existing lanes on Bloor, College, Adelaide, and Richmond Streets, making continuous, protected trips possible.

How we get around has become more important than ever before. Living with the COVID-19 pandemic means recognizing that people need to be able to get where they need to go while maintaining a safe physical distance. This means that many of us will need to consider alternate methods of transportation. The new bike lanes on University Avenue will provide an alternative to the Line 1 subway for commuters, opening up more space for those who need to take public transit.

Toronto has joined the ranks of London, New York, and Mexico City, all of which have responded to COVID-19 by expanding cycling infrastructure. Going forward, how people get around will continue to be a major public health issue. These new lanes are a step in the right direction towards keeping ourselves healthy, and keeping our city moving.

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