

DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

755 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6R1

October 24, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
Government of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

By email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

I'm writing on behalf of the Dalhousie Community Association, in Somerset Ward in Ottawa.

We wish to respond to Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria's announcement October 15 that your government will introduce legislation that will require provincial approval before municipalities are permitted to build new lanes for cyclists in place of existing lanes for motor vehicles.

The problems of Torontonians frustrated with traffic gridlock on Bloor Street do not apply generally in Ontario. These problems should be resolved, of course, but through a specific local response, not provincial legislation.

In our neighbourhoods, adjacent downtown Ottawa and an interprovincial truck route, improved cycling facilities, including new bike lanes on major arteries like Gladstone Avenue, are essential for public safety. We need a connected cycling network here and throughout our city to help reduce traffic congestion and ensure cycling is an appealing and safe alternative to driving a car. Local initiatives like these promote the good health of all Ontarians.

Cycling lanes can be of benefit to car and truck drivers, too. Without lanes for cyclists, drivers wanting to avoid collisions must slow down and wait before they can pass safely. Cycling lanes make it easier and safer to pass, which reduces delays for all drivers.

The importance of these cycling facilities will be emphasized in Ottawa's new Transportation Master Plan, currently in preparation, a process that includes significant public participation.

Our TMP will provide an effective local approach to traffic management in our city, including more cycling lanes on city streets.

Provincial legislation designed to address traffic gridlock in Toronto is not needed here. Municipal authority in this matter should not be reduced.

I urge you to reconsider Minister Sarkaria's legislative proposal.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Catherine Boucher
President

Premier Doug Ford

October 24, 2024

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Cc:

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria

Minister of Transportation

Hon. Paul Calandra

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Joel Harden, MPP, Ottawa Centre

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor, City of Ottawa

Ariel Troster, Councillor, Somerset Ward