

June 1, 2020

Re: Main Street Economic Recovery for Danforth Avenue Supported through a Complete Street Approach to ActiveTO

Dear Business Owner:

As Toronto's Covid-19 recovery process begins, the City will be investing in improvements to Danforth Avenue in order to attract people back to visit and support local business, bringing back vibrancy on the Danforth, while better enabling people to maintain physical distancing while living safely with COVID-19.

As approved by City Council on May 28, 2020, Danforth Avenue from Broadview Avenue to Dawes Road (approximately 6 km) will be temporarily transformed this summer in order to better support local businesses and main street economic recovery. Proposed changes include:

- Streetscape improvements such as planters, brightly painted curb extensions to reduce pedestrian crossing distances, and opportunities for new and expanded patios would create an attractive streetscape with more outdoor seating and retail space. City staff are currently reviewing opportunities to streamline renewals of existing patio permits, simplify the application process for expanded patios, and waive patio permit fees.
- Parking/loading along Danforth Avenue would be available on a full-time (24/7) basis on both sides of the street, providing an additional 10 hours of parking availability per stall per week. A minor reduction in parking stalls along Danforth Avenue (loss of less than 10% of total parking in the area) would be required to accommodate the proposed streetscape elements.
- A separated bicycle lane would be provided in both directions to provide safe mobility options for local shopping, etc trips, and serve as a relief valve for the subway.
- One traffic lane in either direction would be maintained, and turn lanes would be added at intersections.
- Adequate pedestrian space for circulation, safety and physical distancing will be maintained on sidewalks.

City staff will be reaching out to work with BIA offices to finalize the design before installation. Your feedback will be needed on streetscape improvements, addressing on-street parking and loading needs, and opportunities for new or expanded patios. Please see the "Contact Information" section at the end of this letter.

The proposed plan includes flexibility so that the installations can be adjusted based on considerations such as changing traffic volumes, and the evolving needs of residents and businesses in the wake of the pandemic.

Proposed (typical) concept for temporary Danforth Avenue improvement:



**Turn lanes and painted curb extensions would be added at key intersections.*

Proposed expanded patio option:



**Expanded patios would be considered with the advice of Public Health Officials*

About ActiveTO:

A program called [ActiveTO](#) was developed by Toronto Public Health and Transportation Services and already includes initiatives on neighbourhood streets and some major roads (on weekends) to make space for people to be outside and respect physical distancing. The third part of ActiveTO proposes that key parts of Toronto's cycling network be expanded.

A staff report was considered by Toronto City Council on May 28, 2020 asking Council to approve the installation of new and temporary bikeways this summer, including Danforth Avenue. The [full report](#) is now available on the City's website.

While most of the proposed ActiveTO cycling network initiatives are quick-start installations that re-purpose curb lanes, using paint, signage, and temporary barricades, Danforth Avenue will involve a more comprehensive Complete Streets approach, and include a

higher level of investment in order to support the main street character and local economy, and create an attractive street that is safe, convenient and comfortable for everyone.

Stay Engaged:

City staff from the BIA Office in Economic Development & Culture will be in contact with BIAs in order to work with you and with City staff in Transportation Services on next steps.

BIA Contacts:

Broadview Danforth: Susan Puff, spuff@thedanforth.ca

GreekTown on the Danforth: Mary Fragedakis, bia@greektowntoronto.com

Danforth Mosaic (The Danny): Colin Johnson, info@thedanny.ca

Danforth Village: Louie Dapergolas, info@dvbia.ca

Visit www.toronto.ca/danforthstudy for more information and to sign up for project updates.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mike Williams
General Manager
Economic Development & Culture



Barbara Gray
General Manager
Transportation Services