

Scarborough gets a bike lane protected from traffic, but it's temporary

COVID-19 inspires Toronto to build Brimley 'cycling track'

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City council is making biking easier in Scarborough with this stretch of Huntingwood Drive connecting to a new temporary cycle trek on Brimley Road. - Dan Pearce/Torstar

Scarborough will get its first separated bike lane on a major roadway this summer, but that's only temporary, Toronto Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson says.

To help people move more safely during the coronavirus pandemic, Toronto City Council approved a "cycle track" on Brimley Road [on May 28](#) from Kingston Road to Lawrence Avenue.

It also will create bicycle lanes on Huntingwood Drive, which already has lines painted to narrow space for traffic, from Brimley to Victoria Park Avenue, [as part of its ActiveTO initiative](#).

The city protects cycle tracks [with plastic bollards or hard curbs](#).

Part of the Brimley track runs through Thompson's ward, and he said constituents have told them they need bicycle lanes for travel during the pandemic.

The councillor supports the track because "there is no other way to do it at the moment," but wants "alternative methods" used for cycling after Brimley gets a reconstruction scheduled in 2022.

If the track isn't moved off the road, then lanes or space for other vehicles will be lost, Thompson said.

Douglas Yardley, who lives near the stretch of Brimley, called it a good choice for a permanent track.

It would connect to east-west paths across the Gattineau Hydro Corridor, a multi-use path to the Bellamy Road and Eglinton Avenue area, and a path along a Highland Creek ravine that reaches Markham Road.

"Making connections makes the bike infrastructure more useful," Yardley said.

"The best way to get the benefit of bikes is to encourage cycling for daily transportation, not just recreation. This means putting bike lanes on main

streets.”

Marvin Macaraig, coordinator of Scarborough Cycles for Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, said he hopes council’s heightened awareness of the need for Scarborough cycling infrastructure has “an eventual domino effect” in getting more of Toronto’s cycling plan network built there.

“A bike lane on Brimley Road will help people get safely to the always-popular Bluffer’s Park, and serve as an important connection to The Meadoway, Thomson Memorial Park, and McCowan District Park,” said Macaraig, adding he’s seen more people in Scarborough cycling to avoid taking public transit.

“Scarborough has very few north-south bike lanes and this would surely help residents cross Eglinton Avenue East and get down to Kingston Road.”

A cycling track along a section of Conlins Road that crosses Highway 401 was scheduled for completion in 2019 but is not yet finished.



by [Mike Adler](#)

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