

Do you travel on Brimley Road?

Toronto Council has approved closing one lane of Brimley Road in each direction all the way from Lawrence down to Kingston Road. They will give those two lanes to people riding bicycles.

They will 'examine' all the left and right hand turning lanes at intersection to see which ones, if any, should remain for people making turns. You can bet, when they're done, there won't be many turning lanes left.

If you live on Brimley or travel it regularly you know how busy it is. Not just for cars and trucks but also for the 150 TTC buses that travel Brimley Road every day.

A lot of us use Brimley to drive family members and friends to the subway at Kennedy Station when the weather's bad, in winter when it's dark early and the sidewalks to the nearest bus stop are bad, when it's late and not necessarily safe to walk/wait for the bus. There are +\-200 homes with driveways right onto Brimley south of Lawrence. Turning in/out of these will be a nightmare. They'll have to cross the bike lanes. They'll block everybody while they wait to turn left. What a disaster.

We lose one lane each way and we're going to be jammed up in the one remaining lane along with all the specialized service trips some us depend on: Meals on Wheels, WheelTrans, visiting nurses, medical supply deliveries, Amazon, Canada Post, FedEx, Uber and Lyft, taxis, DoorDash, UberEats, SkiptheDishes. **A single vehicle waiting to turn left or right will hold up everybody for miles.**

We have asked our Councillor Michael Thompson to stop this lunacy. He's not going to do so. He calls it a 'temporary' measure to help people get some exercise after being cooped up in the COVID crisis. Why limit it to cycling? Why not put up some basketball and hockey nets? Bocce courts? Lawn bowling? We've had dedicated bicycle routes on Brimorton for a decade. It is very rare to actually see anyone using these lanes.

By the time they've spent the money to paint all the lines, put up all the special signs, install the special traffic signals for bicycles, eliminated left and right hand turn lanes, you can bet the bicycle lobby will fight like mad to keep it.

We asked all candidates for Council in our Ward back in the October 2018 election a couple of questions to help our voters decide. One of the questions was:

If elected will you pay attention to and insist that any proposals for new bikeways, street railways, express bus lanes, whatever, shall maintain the number of traffic lanes we have today?

Michael Thompson's answer before the election was pretty clear. He said **YES**.

Here's how you can contact Councillor Thompson. Tell him what you think of reducing Brimley to one lane each way.

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