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January 23, 2026

City of Brampton City Council
2 Wellington Street West
Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2

RE: Howden Boulevard

Dear members of Brampton City Council,

On July 31, the Ontario Superior Court sided with cycling and safety advocates finding that the Ontario government's attempts to remove 19 kilometers of bike lanes under Bill 212 violated Canadians' Charter rights under Section 7. The province's appeal will be heard on January 28.

The court ruled that government decisions that increase risk to people, particularly vulnerable road users like cyclists, are unconstitutional when not made in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice. Internal documents also confirmed the government's own experts advised that the legislation would not achieve the claimed effect of reducing congestion in downtown Toronto. The evidence was that in fact, protected bicycle lanes can reduce motor vehicle traffic by providing an alternative method of transportation that is safer for all users of the roads:

To the contrary, records produced by the government in this litigation show that the internal advice prior to passing Bill 212 was that protected bike lanes can have a positive impact on congestion and that removing them would do little, if anything, to alleviate gridlock, and may worsen congestion.¹

To be clear, the ruling does not create a constitutional right to bicycle lanes, nor limit any level of government from making road and traffic decisions including installing and removing bike lanes. And local public feedback is an essential part of that decision-making.

But the bike lanes on Howden Boulevard are a key part of Brampton's broader Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP), endorsed by council and well-grounded in expert data and community feedback.

We urge you to remain committed to your ATMP, and vote to keep the bike lanes on Howden to keep building a transportation system that is safe and efficient for all of Brampton.

Michael Longfield
Executive Director

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charity that has been leading the change for a healthier and more vibrant cycling city since 2008.

¹ <https://ecojustice.ca/news/major-victory-in-cycle-challenge-ontario-court-finds-government-violated-charter-rights/>

cc: Patrick Brown, Mayor
Marlon Kallideen, Chief Administrative Officer
Paul Vicente, Regional Councillor, Wards 1 and 5
Rowena Santos, Regional Councillor, Wards 1 and 5
Navjit Kaur Brar, Regional Councillor, Wards 2 and 6
Michael Palleschi, Regional Councillor, Wards 2 and 6
Dennis Keenan, Regional Councillor, Wards 3 and 4
Martin Medeiros, Regional Councillor, Wards 3 and 4
Pat Fortini, Regional Councillor, Wards 7 and 8
Rod Power, City Councillor, Wards 7 and 8
Gurpartap Singh Toor, Regional Councillor, Wards 9 and 10
Harkirat Singh, City Councillor, Wards 9 and 10, Deputy Mayor
Peter Pilateris, Public Works & Engineering Commissioner
Steve Ganesh, Planning, Building and Growth Management Commissioner
Alex Milojevic, Corporate Support Services Commissioner
Bill Boyes, Community Services Commissioner
Laura Johnston, Legislative Services Commissioner
Heidi Dempster, Brampton Transit General Manager
David Laing, Chair, BikeBrampton

