



## **Open Streets TO crosses Toronto's iconic Bloor Street Viaduct, expands programming**

TORONTO, September 16, 2016 – This Sunday, Open Streets TO will expand to its longest route to date, crossing the Bloor Street Viaduct to the Danforth. Torontonians will be treated to a spectacular view from the city's most iconic bridge, free to walk, bike, and play without car traffic.

The full route will run along Bloor Street from Dufferin Street to Hampton Avenue, and along Yonge Street from Bloor Street to Queen Street. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m.

“We’re thrilled to have Open Streets TO cross the viaduct and come east to the Danforth,” said Paula Fletcher, Councillor, Ward 30. “The Danforth is one of our City’s most vibrant neighbourhoods, and I know our community will embrace this bold, unique, and inclusive event.”

The route expansion means that this Sunday’s instalment of Open Streets TO will be the most expansive to date. ‘Activity Hubs’ will be placed the full length of the route, hosted by local businesses and organizations, and inviting Torontonians to participate. Some organizations participating this Sunday include the National Ballet School of Canada, the Invictus Games, the Native Youth Resource Centre, and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

“Open Streets has seen tremendous support from both the city and the community,” said Emily Munroe, Co-Chair, Open Streets TO. “This expansion is an important step towards our vision of a truly expansive community-oriented recreation program, accessible to everyone who lives in and around Toronto.”

Open Streets TO is inspired by a world-class program proven to positively impact healthy behaviour by repurposing existing public assets - namely our iconic streets - and providing access to free recreation space. Major global cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Paris, and

Mexico City, have launched open streets programs in recent years. In 2015, more than 53,000 Torontonians attended Open Streets TO over two days.

“Open Streets TO has allowed us to join the ranks of a global active and healthy city movement,” said Kristyn Wong-Tam, Councillor, Ward 27. “Community, connectivity, and healthy living are all key components of our Open Streets. I enthusiastically welcome the expansion of this year’s program.”

For more information visit [www.openstreetsto.org](http://www.openstreetsto.org).

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