

June 19, 2003

Ms. Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

At its meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, the Commission considered the attached report entitled, "Yield to Bus Legislation."

The Commission adopted the Recommendation contained in the report, as listed below:

"It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive this report for information, noting that:
 - The Provincial Government has amended the Highway Traffic Act to require motorists to yield the right-of-way to buses, in bus bays, which have indicated an intention to re-enter the adjacent traffic lane;
 - The legislation, and associated regulations, are expected to be proclaimed and to come into force on January 2, 2004;
 - A provincially-led advertising and public awareness campaign is currently being developed and will be launched later in 2003;
 - TTC staff will install the necessary decals on the rear of all buses, as specified by the legislation, to allow them to take advantage of the priority afforded by this legislation; and
2. Forward this report to the Toronto Police, Toronto Transportation, and the City of Toronto for information."

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The foregoing is to Toronto City Council through the Works Committee for information.

Sincerely,

Vincent Rodo
General Secretary
1-16
Attachment

Copy: Chief Julian Fantino, Toronto Police Service
Dave Kaufman, General Manager, Transportation Services, City of Toronto

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Yield to Bus Legislation

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive this report for information, noting that:
 - The Provincial Government has amended the Highway Traffic Act to require motorists to yield the right-of-way to buses, in bus bays, which have indicated an intention to re-enter the adjacent traffic lane;
 - The legislation, and associated regulations, are expected to be proclaimed and to come into force on January 2, 2004;
 - A provincially-led advertising and public awareness campaign is currently being developed and will be launched later in 2003;
 - TTC staff will install the necessary decals on the rear of all buses, as specified by the legislation, to allow them to take advantage of the priority afforded by this legislation; and,
2. Forward this report to the Toronto Police, Toronto Transportation, and the City of Toronto for information.

FUNDING

This report has no effect on the TTC's capital budget. Funding for the purchase and installation of the decals will be included in the TTC's 2004 operating budget.

BACKGROUND

Toronto City Council, at its meeting of December 4, 5, and 6, 2001, considered a City staff report pertaining to bus bays and adopted a number of recommendations including the following:

The TTC be requested to investigate the possibility of providing further signage at the rear of buses, using either slogans or a bright decal, to indicate that people should give priority to buses re-entering traffic;

The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, in consultation with the Chief General Manager of the TTC, be requested to provide an educational program to encourage motorists to give buses the right-of-way when exiting a bus bay; and

The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, in consultation with the Chief General Manager of the TTC, be requested to submit a report to the Works Committee on

the concept of installing a stop indicator light on the back of TTC buses which would become operational when buses exit from bus bays and traffic would be required, by law, to give buses the right-of-way.

In a separate, although related, initiative, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) successfully lobbied the Ontario Government to enact legislation requiring every driver of a vehicle in the lane of traffic adjacent to a bus bay to yield the right-of-way to buses indicating an intention to re-enter the lane from the bus bay.

DISCUSSION

Bus bays permit buses to serve transit customers at a stop without causing delay to other traffic on the roadway. Under the current legislation, buses attempting to re-enter the adjacent traffic lane from a bus bay, must do so during a gap in approaching traffic, or rely on motorists in that lane to voluntarily yield the right-of-way. Decals are installed on the rear upper-left side of TTC buses, reminding motorists of this courtesy. However, there are still occasions when buses experience delays when attempting to exit a bus bay and re-enter the traffic stream.

New legislation, scheduled for proclamation on January 2, 2004, will make it mandatory for motorists to yield the right-of-way to buses signalling an intention to re-enter the traffic lane from a bus bay. A copy of this legislation is attached. A working group, comprised of staff from CUTA, provincial agencies, municipalities, and transit properties, including TTC, drafted regulations to support this new legislation.

The regulations define a bus bay to also include transit stops located in a curb lane between legally parked cars, in a right-turn lane on the near side of an intersection, and in an acceleration lane on the far side of an intersection. The legislation applies only to buses having the regulatory decal; participation is not mandatory.

Prior to January 2, 2004, when the legislation comes into force, a provincially-led public awareness campaign will be required, including revisions to driver training manuals and other literature. A working group led by provincial staff, and including TTC Marketing and Public Affairs staff, is currently developing a province-wide public awareness campaign to be launched later in 2003.

May 1, 2003
11-55-78

Attachment: Draft Legislation