

Ref: 2007-07-M40

May 1, 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

City Council on April 23 and 24, 2007, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

M40 Delivery Vehicles – Downtown Entry Restriction: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Thompson

SUMMARY:

For the purposes of this motion, “Downtown Core” will be defined as “both sides of Jarvis Street, Bloor Street, Spadina Road and all areas that fall between these boundaries, south to Lake Ontario”.

Local and commuter traffic in the downtown core during normal rush-hours is severely crowded creating grid-lock and all major delivery services have admittedly factored the price of no parking/no-stopping infractions into the cost of doing business.

The Toronto Police Service currently employs our Parking Enforcement Personnel and we afford them no power to restrict delivery vehicles from blocking public roadways, short of giving them a ticket for the infraction, which does not solve the problem. Toronto’s Downtown Core is the business district with employees traveling in from areas such as Oakville, Brampton, Barrie, Peterborough, Pickering and beyond.

These commuters mixed with residents of the City of Toronto are constantly stranded in heavy traffic, largely in part due to lane blockages and other controllable obstructions. One delivery truck stopped on a 2-lane street blocks 50% of the capacity of that street.

The cities of New York, USA, and London, UK, have already utilized restrictions on truck deliveries with great success throughout the day and night, respectively.

Traffic congestion is a known cause of smog and other toxic greenhouse emissions which our City can ill-afford to increase. The Kyoto Protocol is the only global mechanism with targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A reduction in traffic congestion will result in a measurable lowering of Toronto's toxic greenhouse gas emissions and will help to reduce the daytime Smog Alerts in the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Toronto City staff report on the feasibility of prohibiting delivery vehicles from entering the Downtown Core during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, for a six month trial basis at which point the item will be reviewed for its effectiveness.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd