HOWARD MOSCOE

April 28, 2009

To:

The Chair and Members of the Planning and Growth

Management Committee

Re:

Provisions for Taxi Stands

There is a major gap in our official plan when it comes to recognizing all of the transportation needs of particularly large buildings and facilities designed to accommodate large numbers of people.

The official plan makes provision for bicycles and their storage, focuses considerable attention on vehicular traffic and parking requirements, makes extensive provision for the needs of pedestrians and virtually ignores taxis.

Large buildings are small cities. They need to be serviced by taxis. Just witness the line of taxis on Wellington, Adelaide or Bay Street to understand the problems that emerge because the city planning regime makes no provision for taxis. The city would never plan a large building without extensive examination for loading docks. Why not taxis which provide courier service as well as transportation needs?

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Not long ago the city adopted my submission that when planning new hotels there must be provision on site for a taxi stand. It is now time to ask our planners to put their minds to a requirement to properly service large office buildings, hospitals and entertainment facilities with taxi stands. It is hard to believe, for example, that the Rogers Centre (formerly Skydome) was built without a single taxi stand.

Recommendation

 That staff be requested to undertake a study of the need for taxi stands including appropriate ways to accommodate them in large buildings, hospitals, and entertainment facilities as part of the official plan review.

Thanks for your consideration of this.

Yours in government,

Howard Moscoe

Councillor, City of Toronto

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