



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215  
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2  
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

October 19, 2021

Municipal Licensing and Standards  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear members of the General Government and Licensing Committee,

**RE: GL26.11 Back-to-School - Vehicle-for-Hire Driver Training**

Cycle Toronto is supportive of the recommendations before the committee. The lack of movement toward implementing mandatory driver training for private transportation companies (PTCs), which could be delivered online during the COVID-19 pandemic, is alarming and represents a danger to everyone, especially the most vulnerable road users such as people walking, people using mobility devices, and people cycling. Many of these vulnerable road users who depend on active transportation are children, and we commend City Council for recognizing the timeliness and importance of this issue as many parents and children are returning to their workplaces and schools.

We have a number of concerns as a result of the low standards the city has set for PTCs and their drivers. Our members report numerous incidences of dooring, distracted driving, and the obstruction of bike lanes, resulting in near misses and injury.

**We urge this committee to recommend mandating a Taxi and PTC driver training program imminently:** which must include a focus on safe and responsible driving and passenger responsibilities around vulnerable road users. This should include safe pick-up, drop-off, U-turning and three-point turning, and door opening. It should also clarify the law around cycling infrastructure in urban areas for drivers. Particularly, PTC drivers need to be trained how to pick up and drop off people on streets with bike lanes, so as not to obstruct them, the largest concern cited among our members.



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215  
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2  
416-644-7188 | [cycleto.ca](http://cycleto.ca)

**We also urge the committee to improve driver accountability and reporting:** to maintain accountability for dangerous driving and near misses, we support the requirement for PTCs to have a form of clear and unique identification, such as a sticker with unique ID tag, to allow for incident reporting. The city should require that incident reporting is available through PTC apps and that the data collected is shared with the city and police. The failure to comply with the rules should result in mandatory retraining before a PTC license can be renewed.

A driver training program is essential to ensuring that PTC drivers operate their vehicles in a safe manner that is compliant with Vision Zero principles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keagan Gartz".

Keagan Gartz  
Executive Director

*Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charitable organization that works to make Toronto a healthy, safe and vibrant cycling city for all. We are focused on advocacy, education and encouragement, as we work to shape policy and infrastructure, and build community to transform our city's cycling culture.*