



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Relieving Congestion by Increasing Fines and Enforcement for Motorists and Delivery Vehicles that Obstruct Traffic During Rush Hour Periods

Date:	September 27, 2011
To:	Government Management Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011, referred Motion MM11.1 to the Government Management Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee with an implementation plan to increase fines to \$500 for any motorist, including delivery vehicles, from stopping, standing, parking or otherwise obstructing traffic on arterial roads and in bicycle lanes during City-designated rush hour periods.
2. City Council request the City Manager to work with the Toronto Police Service to increase enforcement of existing by-laws prohibiting any motorist, including delivery vehicles, from stopping, standing, parking or otherwise obstructing traffic, including bicycle lanes, on arterial roads during City-designated rush hour periods.

Summary

Traffic congestion is a significant problem for Toronto's motorists, public transit users and cyclists. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently

noted that the Greater Toronto Area suffers from the longest work commute times in North America. This congestion costs the region's economy an estimated \$3.3 billion per year while negatively impacting on the quality of life of our residents. The long-term solutions to this problem include building a more accessible, extensive and efficient public transportation system in addition to encouraging car-pooling and cycling.

In the meantime, Council can take small, but important, measures to alleviate traffic congestion. One such measure is to provide sufficient deterrents to motorists and delivery drivers that stop, stand, park illegally or otherwise obstruct traffic on arterial roads during rush hour. Far too often, entire lanes of major roads are blocked due to an individual pulling over to grab a coffee in the morning or a delivery vehicle choosing the afternoon rush period to drop off their goods. Drivers along arterials often use bicycle lanes as a parking lane, forcing cyclists to dangerously merge into traffic. During rush hour this creates very unsafe conditions for cyclists. While currently not permitted, it is clear that current fines and levels of enforcement are not sufficient to deter such activities.

This Motion seeks to improve traffic flow during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods by increasing the fines and level of enforcement for individuals that obstruct other motorists, public transit users and cyclists.

(Submitted to City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011 as MM11.1)