City Council

Motion without Notice

MM14.22	ACTION		Ward:18

Improving Safety for Cyclists - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong

- * This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.
- * This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.
- * This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate

Recommendations

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to review the collision report prepared by the Toronto Police Service with respect to the November 7, 2011 cyclist-motor vehicle collision at the intersection of Sterling Road and Dundas Street West and report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, no later than the Spring of 2012, on any potential strategies for preventing future cyclist collisions at this location.

Summary

On Monday, November 7, 2011 a cyclist was involved in a fatal collision with a truck at the corner of Sterling Road and Dundas Street West. This tragic event caused an outpouring of grief for the cyclist and her family and has raised concern about the ongoing need to make Toronto streets safer for cyclists. This location has a high number of cyclists, both travelling in the Dundas Street West bicycle lanes and entering and exiting the West Toronto Railpath. A thorough review of the design and operation of the intersection and the circumstances leading to the collision could yield important information to improve road safety at this and other locations.

Many community concerns have surfaced regarding this intersection. High speeds, difficult sight lines, streetcar tracks, and the cresting hill are contributing factors that heighten the dangers to all road users –especially cyclists and pedestrians– at this intersection. With many reports of incidents at the nearby Dundas and College intersection, as the local Councillor I requested City staff to recommend a safer alternative for cyclists turning left from Dundas to College Street. With this recent tragedy, however, it is clear that the scope of the Dundas and College investigation must be expanded to coordinate with the nearby Dundas and Sterling intersection.

Furthermore, due to the frequent reports of incidents at this intersection, strong resident

concern, and this terrible recent death, the urgency of this investigation is all the more critical. By acting quickly and determinately to address these concerns, future injuries and tragedies can be avoided, and the sooner that a safer intersection can be introduced at this site.

(Submitted to City Council on November 29 and 30, 2011, as MM14.22)