

SEP 24 2012

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20 Sept. 2012
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Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
Chair of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West, Suite C55
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Re: ***an amendment to 'Definition of a Bicycle'***

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong:

This correspondence comes as a result of telephone conversation this day (20 September 2012) with Administrative Assistant Ms. Amalia Stefanopoulos at approximately 12 noon.

At your request find herein written confirmation and specific detail of our request so that you then will introduce this correspondence at the next committee meeting and then ask for a report from Transportation or other departments on the issue, a report that will also reach the Mayor as he requested in meeting of 31 July this year.

It has been six years since our provincial government has allowed power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) on our streets to be treated the same as bicycles. It has been three years since our provincial government has passed legislation making e-bikes legal throughout Ontario and that they must be treated the same as other bicycles. At no time in these past six years has any committee of our municipal government allowed e-bikes onto any agenda to deal with this new alternative transportation. At no time has any department of our municipal government done any study of e-bikes with compliance to City of Toronto mission statement and or principles to invite and or allow 'all stakeholders' on issue to provide input.

The request:

AMEND THIS BYLAW

**TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE FOOTPATHS, PEDESTRIAN WAYS,
BICYCLE PATHS AND BICYCLE LANES**

886.1 Definitions

BICYCLE – Includes a bicycle, tricycle or other similar vehicle, but does not include any vehicle or bicycle propelled or driven by any power other than muscular power.

AMEND AND REMOVE: *'but does not include any vehicle or bicycle propelled or driven by any power other than muscular power.'*

REPLACE WITH: *'and e-bikes.'*

The issue presented here is not about exercise. It is about transportation. Many of our residents can no longer pedal a bicycle. Their knees are gone or have lost their hips. Some of our residents have asthma or weakened hearts in their 'golden years'. Are they to be denied access to the amenities they have and must continue paying for because they are unable to pedal a conventional bicycle? Are Toronto residents to be provided an alternative transportation by their Provincial government only to have their Municipal government tell them 'too bad, you're not fit, you don't qualify to use the bike lanes; paths; trails and Island Ferries, but you do qualify to continue paying for it all?'"

A written confirmation of receipt is requested. Your attention to this concern is appreciated.



John V. De Marco