

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM30.27	ACTION			Ward:28
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By-law Exemption to Ensure Sidewalk Accessibility - Front Street East between Parliament and Jarvis Streets - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Peter Milczyn

- * 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 Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Peter Milczyn, recommends that:

1. City Council exempt encroachments on Front Street East between Jarvis Street and Parliament Street from Subsection 743-31E(1) of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, and delegate authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services the authority to make such determinations where necessary.

Summary

Road reconstruction is scheduled for Front Street East as part of the Toronto Water project to upgrade its infrastructure. As part of this 2013 capital project, there are a number of streetscape enhancements such as implementation of the heritage lighting plan, additional trees and curb extensions which are being jointly funded with the expanding St. Lawrence BIA. Toronto Hydro is also taking advantage of this reconstruction opportunity to replace all of its existing poles. These streetscape enhancements are being constructed in support of this street's designation as the 2015 Pan ParaPan AM Games Promenade between Union Station and the Athletes' Village and will leave a lasting legacy for Torontonians.

Currently, all Toronto Hydro poles are placed close to the curb on Front Street East. The recently consolidated Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, prohibits encroachments, other than soft landscaping, from being within 0.5 metres of the curb line of any road with a speed limit of 60 km/hr or less. Front Street East between Parliament Street and Jarvis Street (hereinafter referred to as "Front Street East") has a curb and a speed limit of 60 km/hr or less. The new Toronto Hydro poles are now also somewhat wider in circumference and will be bolted and not countersunk into the sidewalk. The net effect on existing narrow sidewalks is to create pinchpoints which reduce the pedestrian clearway to less than the 1.675 m. standard recommended in the City's 2004 Accessibility Guidelines.

In order to ensure that Front Street East is fully accessible to all Torontonians as well as visiting ParaPan athletes, it is recommended that in those road segments where the existing pedestrian clearway is insufficient, that the Toronto Hydro poles be placed closer to the curb, often within 0.5 metres of the curb line. This will also ensure that mechanical snow removal

can occur on the sidewalks and replicate the existing placement of the Toronto Hydro poles. This motion seeks an exemption from Subsection 743-31E(1) of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, for Front Street East in order to place Toronto Hydro poles closer to the curb than .5m, where required, on Front Street East in order to prevent pinchpoints on city sidewalks.

This matter is urgent as City staff must issue a tender for this capital project before the next scheduled meeting of Council to allow for the most competitive bid process, and to allow the project to be completed in 2013.

(Submitted to City Council on February 20 and 21, 2013 as MM30.27)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM30.27