

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM33.17	ACTION			Ward:All
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One-Metre Passing Rule for Cyclists' Safety - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to implement the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario's recommendation and amend the Highway Traffic Act to include a one (1) metre/three (3) foot passing rule for vehicles when passing cyclists and that such a change in legislation be reflected in the *Ontario Drivers Handbook*, Beginning Driver Education curricula and the driver's licence examination process.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services in consultation with the City Solicitor to report to the June 19, 2013 meeting of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on an amendment to the Municipal Code to include a one (1) metre/three (3) foot passing rule for vehicles when passing cyclists; and that such an amendment be repealed when a corresponding Provincial action has been taken.

Summary

Cyclists are among the most vulnerable road users. Ontario's Chief Coroner, in his report *Cycling Death Review* (2012), points out that in 2009, over 26,000 people in Ontario visited an emergency room after being injured while cycling and countless more were likely injured but did not visit a hospital.

The Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario identified that attempts by motorists to pass cyclists with insufficient passing room was responsible for the majority of cycling deaths reviewed between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA), Section 148 deals with overtaking and passing rules. It includes rules which seek to provide space between motor vehicles and cyclists to avoid collision but it does not specify a minimum distance. The Chief Coroner of Ontario's recommendation is therefore that an effective safe passing guideline of 1 metre between vehicles and cyclists be implemented.

The Office Chief Coroner of Ontario's (OCCO) report points out that two-thirds of fatal cycling collisions occurred in urban centres. Toronto should not wait for the Province to amend the HTA, since as the OCCO's report points out – the cost of delay is more road fatalities. Toronto City Council has the opportunity to enhance road safety by taking the important step of amending the Municipal Code to include the safe passing guidelines recommended by the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario.

(Submitted to City Council on May 7 and 8, 2013 as MM33.17)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM33.17