
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM37.40	ACTION			Ward:All
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Delivering Solutions to Gridlock - Ending Congestion Caused By Rush Hour Deliveries on Busy Streets - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Chin Lee

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Chin Lee, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, as a part of the Courier/Delivery Vehicle Parking Permit report or at such time as is considered, on:
 - a. strategies to discourage commercial deliveries and truck traffic during peak commuting hours including but not limited to:
 - i. a pilot program similar to the Manhattan Off-Hour Truck Delivery Program; and
 - ii. banning delivery trucks from travelling or stopping on congested routes during rush hours or other busy periods;
 - b. strategies to encourage and enable smaller and/or human powered delivery vehicles where practical; and
 - c. any opportunities to use the proposed permit parking system for courier and delivery vehicles to implement innovative policies to relieve congestion.
2. City Council request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to report to the Planning and Growth Management Committee on:
 - a. an update on efforts to increase the provision of laneways parallel to congested routes, providing locations for off-street deliveries; and
 - b. strategies to further encourage and expedite the provision of new laneways or

other off-street spaces for deliveries.

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. Estimates have put the cost of congestion to our city's economy at \$6 billion a year while negatively impacting on the quality of life of our residents.

Of course, 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. But, in the meantime, whether one is a motorist or a surface transit user, it is infuriating to see a large delivery vehicle blocking an entire lane of traffic during rush hour. That one act causes bottlenecks, backing up traffic several blocks on major arterial roads.

Toronto's streets must be used more efficiently as we do not have the space or the resources to build more lanes. During the busiest hours of the day, we should prioritize commuters travelling to and from work. There are undeniable benefits to our economy and our quality of life when people spend less time commuting and more time at work or with their family.

While commercial deliveries are an economic necessity, we can use creative strategies to reduce the traffic disruption caused by delivery vehicles, while still ensuring that our businesses receive the goods they need. Other cities, for example, have banned commercial traffic from certain congested areas during the day and implemented programs to encourage night deliveries.

City of Toronto staff are currently preparing to report on developing a permit parking system for courier and delivery vehicles, previously presented as Item PW11.3. This Motion requests addressing the issue more effectively by considering complementary policies to relieve congestion due to delivery vehicles.

(Submitted to City Council on July 16 and 17, 2013 as MM37.40)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM37.40