



Insurance
Travel
Roadside
Rewards

ED30.7.79

April 15, 2014

Councillor Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development Committee
100 Queen Street West, Suite B24
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Re: ED30.7 – Open Streets Toronto

Dear Chair:

I am writing on behalf of CAA South Central Ontario regarding the Staff Report on Open Streets Toronto.

CAA supports policies and initiatives that encourage active transportation through our many programs and initiatives in Ontario.

The proposal to close down a minimum of 10 km roadway in the City of Toronto for four Sunday mornings as outlined in this Report raises some concerns with respect to public safety, access and emergency response.

Emergency Services has clearly stated that the locations being proposed directly contrasts best practices. The traffic congestion on alternate streets that would be created by closing down a major arterial without traffic alternatives would far exceed the capacity of policing services.


There are concerns surrounding timely access to the two Regional Trauma Centres as well as to the community, that include business, tourism as well as the senior community and the users of Wheel Trans.

CAA does not support a plan that could put the public safety of all road users at risk and that is clearly not supported by the City's Emergency Response Services.

CAA respectfully requests that this Committee not proceed further with this Open Streets proposal as outlined in the Staff Report ED30.7.

While this particular Open Streets proposal does not meet the intended objective, as an alternative, Economic Development and Transportation staff could be directed to look at where such a program could best be facilitated in the core to promote this type of initiative.

Sincerely,

Faye Lyons 
Government and Stakeholder Relations
CAA South Central Ontario