

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM50.7	ACTION			Ward:All
--------	--------	--	--	----------

Protecting Our Neighbourhoods: Safety, Accountability and Transparency on Toronto's Rail Lines - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Adam Vaughan

** 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 Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Adam Vaughan, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Canada to require freight rail owners to inform municipalities of the volume and frequency of potentially hazardous materials travelling through City boundaries, the specific material type and that this information be made readily available to the public.
2. City Council request the Government of Canada to completely phase out DOT 111 tanker cars within 2 years that do not meet the safety standards mandated by the Association of American Railroads on October 1, 2011.
3. City Council request the Government of Canada to require the Canada Transportation Agency and freight rail owners to initiate a public participation process regarding freight trains carrying hazardous materials through urban municipalities.

Summary

Toronto residents are concerned about the significant increase of trains carrying crude oil over the past five years, from 500 carloads in 2009 to an estimated 140,000 in 2013.

A significant number of these tank cars are using the Canadian Pacific rail line that runs through Toronto from the Junction neighbourhood along Dupont Street, right in the heart of Midtown, and east through Scarborough.

Currently, the railroad industry does not publicly release information on dangerous goods being transported by rail, citing security concerns. The Federal government must put the safety concerns of local residents before commercial needs and require industry transparency.

Further, this Motion requests the Federal government to enact more stringent safety standards

for the tanker cars carrying crude oil through Toronto's neighbourhoods. DOT-111 cars are more frequently being used to haul dangerous and flammable goods through urban areas, including in the Lac Megantic disaster. Canada's Transportation Safety Board has raised concerns about the tanker cars dating back to a 1997 report that cited a lack of protective coverings. A 2012 United States report into an accident stated that the DOT 111's inadequate design "made the cars subject to damage and catastrophic loss of hazardous materials during the derailment." While safety improvements have been made on these tanker cars built after 2011, concerns remain about the tens of thousands built prior to this date that remain on the rails.

This increase in oil shipment through densely populated neighbourhoods of Toronto has occurred without any consultation or public notices. This Motion also requests the Federal government to require rail companies to engage in meaningful dialogue with local residents before shipping hazardous materials next to our homes, schools, hospitals and daycares.

(Submitted to City Council on April 1 and 2, 2014 as MM50.7)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM50.7