

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM50.39	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Safety Concerns regarding the Transportation of Hazardous Materials on CP Rail Line in Toronto - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata**

*\* 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 Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request Transport Canada to review the state of good repair and safety of the existing CP rail line running between Dupont Street/Davenport, Weston/Mount Dennis, in the City of Toronto.
2. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to investigate the health and safety issues as they relate to the transportation of hazardous materials such as oil, nuclear materials, etc., along the CP rail line corridor and report back to the Board of Health and City Council.
3. City Council request Transport Canada to re-examine all alternative modes of transporting hazardous materials.
4. City Council request Transport Canada to look at the feasibility of re-routing trains that carry hazardous materials to avoid heavily populated centres.

**Summary**

While railroads are federally regulated and the City relies on federal regulators to ensure safe operations, Toronto City Council can engage and act on resident's requests and safety concerns.

The recent derailment disaster in Quebec has shown just how vulnerable populated areas can be to this mode of Transportation. The lack of disclosure, accountability and transparency to local communities and City Officials, is a concern shared by all residents in our City and only serves to heighten their sense of insecurity.

While all precautions must be taken to ensure that any movement of hazardous materials is done in the safest way possible, we as a Council must ensure that all alternative modes of

transporting hazardous materials such oil, chemicals, nuclear materials, etc. are exhausted first.

Equally important, given the lack of compatibility with transporting these materials through populated areas, Toronto residents prefer that manufacturers utilize greater use of safer alternative transportation methods.

Safety and not cost should be the overriding factor

Residents across the City, province and the country, have voiced their concerns on this health and safety issue to elected officials irrespective of jurisdiction, therefore, it is incumbent on Toronto City Council to support our local communities and to offer all the assistance possible to our Federal counterparts in order to move forward with initiatives that would make our City a safer place.

This Motion is urgent as derailing of trains carrying hazardous materials through populated areas have led to the loss of life in other parts of Canada and concern amongst residents in the City of Toronto.

There are many such trains that run through our City and Toronto City Council needs to act immediately to ensure residents peace of mind regarding this urgent health and safety issue.

(Submitted to City Council on April 1 and 2, 2014 as MM50.39)