

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

From: Michael Black <michaelblack@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
Cc: Fiona Chapman; Stephen Buckley; Walk Toronto Steering Committee
Subject: Congestion Management Plan - Our comments for 2015.PW7.7 on September 22, 2015
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee -

To the City Clerk:

Please add our comments to the agenda for the September 22, 2015 Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting on item 2015.PW7.7, Congestion Management Plan (CMP) 2016-2020

I understand that comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Walk Toronto supports the initiatives undertaken as part of the Congestion Management Plan, especially improvements for pedestrian crossing times.

We note the emphasis on “support of all modes of transportation”. However, we regret that the CMP’s main areas of focus are on motor vehicles and transit, with a minor emphasis on cycling. Pedestrian issues are rarely mentioned. This is unfortunate, because congestion rarely affects sidewalks, most of which are uncongested and have significant surplus capacity. We also note that some of the worst conditions of vehicular and transit congestion in Toronto are on downtown streets, where shorter distances and compact streetscapes favour walking.

Downtowners get this message: a significant number of them use walking as their primary mode of transportation. The City of Toronto would be well advised to launch more initiatives in support of downtown commuter walkers. This ought to achieve a travel mode shift in the central core away from private automobiles and overcrowded subways and streetcars — at a cost that is far less onerous than what the City is contemplating for new Scarborough and Yonge relief subway lines, not to speak of changes to the Gardiner Expressway.

Yours truly,

Michael Black

Walk Toronto
www.walktoronto.ca

(416) 487-0808

