



Insurance
Travel
Roadside
Rewards

PW14.1.6

June 17, 2016

Submitted by e-mail

City Clerk's Office
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
9FL West Tower
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Chair Jaye Robinson and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

Re: PW14.1 – Road Safety Plan (RSP) 2017-2021

CAA South Central Ontario appreciates the opportunity to have been included in the discussions on creating a comprehensive road safety plan for the City of Toronto. As a member of the road safety task force along with other safety partners, CAA has been involved in developing the road safety plan since its inception last spring and participated in the city-wide roundtable discussion held earlier this year.

As part of our ongoing advocacy efforts, CAA is committed to working with all levels of government to ensure that our roads are safe and in good condition for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike. For over a century, CAA has been involved in road safety initiatives and education campaigns designed to benefit all road users.

The **CAA School Safety Patrol** program has been in operation for over 85 years. Today, the program boasts over 20,000 student volunteers across the province, and the CAA School Safety Patrol program is now more important than ever to ensure our school zones are safe.

While CAA's School Safety Patrol is referenced in the report before you, it is just one of many efforts around road safety that our organization has led to make Ontario's roads safer. CAA was successful in ensuring the provincial legislature passed the *Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act* (Bill 31) unanimously, which amended legislation around distracted driving, cyclist and pedestrian safety to include increased fines and demerit points for convictions. More information about CAA's efforts on Bill 31 and our **Heads Up! campaign** can be found at www.headsupontario.ca

In addition, CAA has operated a **Watch for Bikes** program aimed at reminding motorists to always look carefully for cyclists approaching from behind. To increase this awareness, CAA provides Watch for Bikes decals that can be placed on a side mirror as a reminder to check for cyclists before opening a door. Municipalities including Oakville, Barrie, Cambridge, Markham, Vaughan and Waterloo have committed to placing these decals on all city fleet vehicles as a reminder to share the road.

The road safety plan before you today was the result of numerous working meetings led by Transportation Services in consultation with road safety partners. Members of the task force were asked to collectively establish criteria and a target to reduce serious collisions and fatalities on our roads. As part of this exercise task force members were encouraged to share information on existing programs and services managed by their respected organizations or in partnership with other stakeholders.

Through a commitment from all parties around the table, the goal of a 20% reduction in fatalities and serious collisions within 10 years was discussed and agreed upon collectively by members of the task force. This measure is an important step forward toward eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on city streets. The decision to work towards a 20% reduction, to start, was one determined collectively, where all attendees were

willing to work with this figure to start, contrary to media reports in recent days. While members of the task force were provided an overview via the phone about a week prior to the report's public release, the stakeholder group was not collectively engaged in the concluding stages of discussion. This was a crucial step as the city prepared its suggested list of existing countermeasures before the final release of the report.

While CAA has some concerns around the proposal for reduced speeds along identified roads within the report, we recognize that measures such as corridor signal timing reviews will be undertaken to help mitigate impacts to travel times. We hope that stakeholders will continue to be consulted on changes as they are proposed, and that the necessary due diligence is taken by City staff to ensure that traffic studies are conducted related to these proposals.

As a not-for-profit automobile club representing over two million members, CAA continues to advocate for and educate on increased road safety across the province regardless of your mode of travel. As advocates, CAA champions initiatives that aim to make our roads safer and ensure that all road users, whether they are motorists, cyclists, transit riders or pedestrians, have safeguards in place to move freely across the province.

I would like to thank staff and members for including CAA as a part of the road safety task force. I look forward to continuing the dialogue as we work to ensure our roads remain some of the safest in North America. I would be pleased to provide further clarification and speak to CAA campaigns and initiatives if necessary.

Sincerely,



Raymond Chan
Government Relations Specialist
CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO)