City Council

Notice of Motion

MM43.4	ACTION			Ward:19, 20
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Accelerating Road Safety Enhancements on Bloor Street West - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

- * Notice of this Motion has been given.
- * This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

- 1. City Council direct staff to immediately improve corridor safety along the Bloor Street West bike lane route, including corridor intersections and City Council authorize staff to make any immediate changes to improve safety along the corridor.
- 2. City Council direct staff to accelerate plans to improve the separation of the Bloor Street West bike lane to enhance corridor safety and to include in the permanent design protected intersections and recommendations for physical roadway modifications to enhance the safety of turning movements, along with through movements on the corridor.
- 3. City Council direct staff to include any new funding required for Parts 1 and 2 above in the 2019 Transportation Services base budget submission.

Summary

Building streets that are safe for all road users – pedestrians, cyclists and motorists – is the responsibility of all of us. In the last two years, 93 pedestrians and cyclists have been killed on our streets. This is a preventable tragedy - we must eliminate fatalities on our streets.

In 2017, after almost 40 years of advocacy and work, City Council made the pilot bike lanes on Bloor Street permanent. As part of the City's 10-year cycling network plan, this was a critical step in making the street safer for everyone, and we heard loud and clear that everyone felt safer using the street after the installation of the bike lanes.

Tragically, earlier in June, a cyclist was struck and killed at Bloor Street West and St. George Street. Although the installation of the bike lanes made the street safer, investing in the physical infrastructure to redesign the roadway – including intersections – is a critical next step, and one that must happen with urgency.

If we are committed to eliminating traffic fatalities, we must be bold – our most vulnerable road users are still not properly protected from unsafe design on our roadways. Our Vision Zero plans must be ambitious and bold, and commit to moving beyond signage and intersection painting. We must redesign our streets with safety as our top priority. We need to ensure funding is available to make the physical modifications needed on our streets to make them safer for everyone.

The permanent redesign of the Bloor Street West bike lane is now underway. However, we must accelerate the long-term work, while also assessing the roadway for immediate safety improvements, while considering every option for permanent improvements, including physical redesign, greater separation and protection, and more.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM43.4