

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM44.83	ACTION			Ward:11
---------	--------	--	--	---------

Protecting for a Rail Path along the Kitchener Corridor - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette

** 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 Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette, recommends that:

1. City Council request that Metrolinx, as part of the design of rail corridor electrification, protect for sufficient space or accommodate the design of multi-use trails like the West Toronto Railpath along their rail corridors, as long as safety or other critical design factors are not compromised.

Summary

Residents and community groups of Ward 11 have long advocated for a bicycle path along the Kitchener Corridor and at the City Council meeting of August 25, 26, and 27, 2010 City Council adopted my motion directing staff to explore all opportunities for a bike trail network north along the Kitchener Corridor, and, if possible, connecting to the West Toronto Railpath and other existing trails.

Since 2010, there has been ongoing discussion with Metrolinx regarding the possibility of a rail path along their Kitchener Corridor. Metrolinx has indicated that because of their plans for electrification, all available space is being reserved within their rail corridors to allow for the best/safest electrification design possible.

The Ward 11 Pedestrian Safety and Cycling Committee recently met with representatives from Metrolinx to further discuss what options may exist to provide for a multi-use trail along the rail corridor. Metrolinx advised that they cannot determine if space for a rail path or multi-use trail will be available along any of their rail corridors until after their electrification design is complete in 2022.

The success of the West Toronto Railpath in providing safe and convenient opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians to travel on can, and should be realized along the Kitchener Corridor. This can only be achieved if it is considered as the design for electrification is being developed – not as an afterthought.

This Motion is urgent as the design for electrification of the rail corridor has begun.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.83