



July 17, 2020

Re: Regulatory Clarity for E-Cargo Cycles: IE14.11

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to support the Infrastructure and Environment Committee's recommendations for regulatory clarity for e-cargo cycles (IE14.11).

In order to meet the City's established climate change goals, many more local trips will need to shift away from gas or diesel-powered vehicles in the coming years. E-cargo cycles are emerging as important alternatives to delivery trucks for local goods movement, and important alternatives to cars for people wanting to carry large items like groceries or retail purchases.

Air pollution from freight vehicles –for example, trucks and delivery vans – also has a disproportionate impact on our health. In the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area, [recent modelling](#) completed by Environmental Defence, the Ontario Public Health Association, and the University of Toronto shows that commercial trucks cause hundreds of estimated premature deaths per year, on top of contributing to respiratory issues like asthma, childhood bronchitis, lung cancer, and other diseases. This is more premature deaths than either passenger vehicles or public transit buses.

As demand for deliveries skyrockets, this health damage is likely to increase, making communities close to major trucking routes more susceptible to the impacts of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

Regulatory barriers that limit uptake of important clean mobility devices like e-cargo bikes should be addressed quickly and responsibly, and we support the proposed outreach and consultation to ensure an effective regulatory framework is established which safely enables much-needed micromobility options.

We applaud the work the City of Toronto has already done to expand clean mobility options like walking, cycling, and electrifying vehicles and public transit. Support for e-cargo bikes will help provide more options to shift from fossil-fuel powered cars and trucks and into feasible clean alternatives that fit into people's lives.

Sincerely,

Sarah Buchanan

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