



Civil & Mineral Engineering UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**City Council,
City of Toronto,**
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 8, 2021

RE: SUPPORT FOR CARGO E-BIKES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Dear Members of City Council,

As chair of the Smart Freight Centre, and Canada Research Chair in Freight Transportation and Logistics, I express support for the ongoing discussion on the legislation and promotion of Cargo E-bikes within the precincts of the City of Toronto, especially the agenda item IE22.15, "*Regulatory Clarity for Cargo E-bikes*" at the June 8th City Council meeting.

One of the ideas central to livable cities is multi-modal and adaptive transportation systems. The City of Toronto is a leader in smart/sustainable city initiatives, which is why the proposed amendments to the Municipal Regulations are crucial to constructively align with the latest improvements in the Ontario Ministry of Transportation amendment of the *Highway Traffic Act*, specifically *Bill 282, Moving Ontarians More Safely Act, 2021*. It is no longer news that we are already behind in the race to battle climate change. As such, we must act aggressively and proactively to protect the environment. One such way is to adopt and promote alternative transportation modes, including Cargo E-bikes for last mile delivery.

The CLUE (City Logistics for the Urban Economy) research program at the University of Toronto's Smart Freight Center has been closely monitoring the progress on the policy and regulations surround Cargo E-Bikes. At the municipal level, we believe that City of Toronto's Infrastructure & Environment Committee adoption of a motion to allow cargo e-bikes is a laudable development. I would like to use this opportunity to further voice support for progress in this direction.

This will enable our current research efforts with our private partners to proceed with pilot research programs with Cargo E-Bikes on the UofT Campus. This work will positively impact consumer access and drive new business opportunities. At this same time, it has the potential of significantly reducing CO₂ emissions.

Once again, there is immense opportunity in this area, we voice our full support for the ongoing policy developments in our city to enable a pilot program Cargo E-bikes of >120kg and up to 1000w in the near future.

Sincerely, !

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Roorda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Roorda, PhD, P.Eng. !

Canada Research Chair in Freight Transportation and Logistics !

Chair, Smart Freight Center (SFC) !

Principal Investigator, City Logistics for Urban Economy (CLUE) !