



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM31.9	ACTION			Ward: 10
--------	--------	--	--	----------

Coordination of Toronto Hydro Work on Ossington Avenue to Prevent Impacts on CafeTO - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Jennifer McKelvie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, recommends that:

1. City Council request Toronto Hydro to make every effort to ensure that ongoing infrastructure work along Ossington Avenue is completed on schedule by May 2021, and that any overlap with CafeTO installation and operation be carefully coordinated with the City of Toronto to minimize negative impacts on local businesses.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services, in coordination with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to work proactively with Toronto Hydro to support on-time completion of infrastructure work along Ossington Avenue and plan for strategies to mitigate any negative impacts on local businesses due to overlap with CafeTO installation and operation.

Summary

Toronto Hydro is conducting work along Ossington Avenue to rebuild the aging overhead and underground electrical system to help improve service reliability. The rebuild includes upgrading overhead and underground electrical cables and replacing hydro poles on city-owned property. This work is scheduled to be completed in May 2021.

At the same time, many businesses on Ossington Avenue are preparing for the CafeTO program, which begins in May 2021. The CafeTO program has provided a lifeline for many local cafes, restaurants, and bars throughout the pandemic.

As so many businesses have struggled through the winter months due to the pandemic, it is critical that any construction work that must take place on City property have as little impact as possible on the CafeTO program.

While the goal is for Toronto Hydro to complete the work on Ossington before CafeTO begins,

businesses and the Business Improvement Area are concerned that any delays or disruptions to construction may have a negative impact on CafeTO and the beginning of the patio season.

Should the Toronto Hydro work on Ossington extend into the CafeTO season, I am requesting that City staff work with Toronto Hydro to ensure patios are not disrupted, and that if needed, alternative solutions for businesses be found on temporary basis.

The CafeTO program is vital for our local businesses and main streets after a very difficult winter, and although vaccines give us hope, there will be more challenging months ahead. Working with Toronto Hydro to ensure no disruptions to outdoor dining is essential.

Background Information (City Council)

(March 30, 2021) Member Motion MM31.9