
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.28	ACTION			Ward: All
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Design Guidelines for CafeTO: Creating a Beautiful Streetscape - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** 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 Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to develop design guidelines for CafeTO installations, in consultation with Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, that will help create a beautiful streetscape that is safe for patrons and cost effective for businesses, and to report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in the first quarter of 2023.

Summary

CafeTO is unquestionably one of the silver linings that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. In 2021, the program supported more than 1,200 restaurants with expanded outdoor dining opportunities on streets and sidewalks. Residents have been almost unanimously supportive of the vibrant neighbourhood main streets CafeTO has created.

The one complaint residents have, however, is in regards to the unattractiveness of some patio installations. While there certainly are many businesses that have installed beautiful spaces, far too many make our streets look less like café cultures in world cities that we try to emulate and more like construction zones. Let this be the last summer that we enjoy a meal with friends and family surrounded by orange pylons and concrete blocks.

This motion requests Staff to develop design guidelines for CafeTO installations with a focus on creating a beautifully-designed streetscape that Torontonians can enjoy and be proud of, while also retaining an emphasis on cost and safety.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.28