



Toronto City Hall
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: IE2.6 - Modernizing Bike Share Toronto Rate Structure




Gig Workers United CUPW is the union for app based delivery workers in Toronto and beyond. Gig Workers provide an essential service delivering food and necessities like groceries and medicine to people living and working in the city of Toronto. We are writing this letter to state unequivocally that the proposed new usage fees will have devastating impacts on precarious workers' income. It must also be stated that there has been no public consultation on the proposed new usage fees which has excluded precarious workers from meaningful participation on this important issue that impacts our ability to put food on the table for our families.

Gig workers who use bike share to deliver are some of the most precarious. Currently workers are spending roughly 30% of their daily wages to use the Bike Share e-bikes. With a single delivery paying as low as \$2.50 workers are earning on average less than \$10 per hour. On top of that apps download 100% of the cost to complete a delivery onto workers, lowering our wages even further. While the newly proposed low income pass has the potential to provide relief for workers this potential will be erased by the new \$0.10 per minute e-bike usage fees.

The city of Toronto is well aware of the precarity of gig workers, the city's own research shows 40% of the time workers spend on apps is 'unengaged time' or unpaid time. (A November 2021 update by City municipal licensing staff reported drivers spent approximately 48% of their time driving, 40% waiting for a trip, and 12% en route. See p. 28, <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/gl/bqrd/backgroundfile-173388.pdf>) Whether delivering by car or bike workers are often earning less than minimum wage meaning the usage fee will further reduce the real take home wages of precarious gig workers delivering by e-bike.

App employers are disrupting employment standards and profiting off the misclassification of gig workers as well as downloading responsibility on to Toronto's local infrastructure. The implementation of the proposed \$0.10 per minute usage fee for e-bikes says to precarious workers; you're being fired. The city of Toronto should look to New York which has been consulting with gig workers to end misclassification by putting the responsibility back onto app employers who are not paying their fair share.

GigWorkersUnited.ca

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