



October 24, 2023

Toronto City Hall  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2  
Re: IE7.2 - Updates on Vision Zero Road Safety Initiatives

Dear Chair McKelvie and committee members,

Walk Toronto would like to highlight that the wording in the summary description of this item emphasizes congestion over safety. There is an implicit assumption that if vehicle congestion is improved, safety will be improved. It is our core belief that the safe passage of people, not vehicles, must be prioritized.

Congestion is frustrating for people driving vehicles, but it can be life-threatening for people who walk, roll, and bike. We believe that the danger that currently exists to pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable road users across the city around hundreds of construction sites, both small and large, is not being fully addressed by the recommendations in this item.

Walk Toronto has been encouraged over the past year with the stakeholder meetings organized by Transportation Services to address road safety advocacy concerns on four issues: communication, safe path of travel, staff training, and enforcement. Still, we believe that the delay in resolving the pressing issue of unsafe passage at the hundreds of construction sites across all wards is putting citizens of Toronto who are not in cars, at great risk as we begin another winter with few daylight hours and the challenges of winter snow and ice on sidewalks and roads.

While we appreciate any effort made to streamline operations within Transportation Services to adequately address our concerns, we believe that the hiring of traffic agents through Toronto Police will do little to make life safer for vulnerable road users across all wards. Moreover, while the QR code technology at sites does add a level of accountability, there are many people who will be unable to use this technology. Nor is it clear that use of these codes would result in any consequential change to unsafe construction site practices.

Having worked closely since late 2022 with Cycle Toronto on this issue, we add our voice to their recommendations related to this issue and repeat them here.

1. Close access to vehicular traffic when the public right of way is compromised on the city's subway routes and key TTC streetcar routes during construction to ensure the safe and efficient movement of transit users, people walking, biking, and using other micro mobilities as well as emergency vehicles.
2. Transportation Services must have the sufficient resources and staff of Project Managers, Site Inspectors, Work Zone Coordinators and Transportation Standards Officers to oversee the proactive and reactive needs of preparing construction permits and enforcing compliance to always guarantee construction zone safety in both a proactive and reactive way.
3. Dedicated and properly resourced enforcement mechanism must ensure the safe passage of vulnerable road users over vehicular traffic.

Sincerely,  
Lee Scott, Member Steering Committee, Walk Toronto  
[info@walktoronto.ca](mailto:info@walktoronto.ca)

cc. Cllrs McKelvie, Colle, Morley, Pasternak, Perruzza, Saxe