



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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May 8, 2023

Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: MM6.7 Recommitting to Taking Action on Impaired Driving in Toronto

Dear Deputy Mayor McKelvie and members of City Council,

Cycle Toronto is writing to express our full support with this member motion brought forward by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Colle. As a charity that advocates for the safety of people who rely on active modes of transportation, it comes as no surprise to us that Toronto Police's data shows that the impact of impaired driving affects most vulnerable road users: pedestrians, people who bike, and wheel, including people with mobility issues, the elderly and children. **Impaired driving is unfortunately just one form of distracted behaviour that leads to unnecessary death and serious road injury.** While educating drivers on the importance of practicing safe driving behaviours is important, it isn't working. **We must redesign our streets and roads within Complete Street Guidelines.**

In August 2022, the OPP confirmed what we already know from the data: speed, dangerous (aggressive) and distracted driving are lethal behaviours that lead to death and serious road injury. Impaired driving, like all forms of distracted and dangerous driving, is preventable. **We urge the City to recommit to reducing all instances of distracted driving; whether impaired or sober.** The city must take a data-driven strategy that leverages the expertise of key stakeholders, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Arrive Alive, and local road safety experts such as Walk Toronto, Friends and Families for Safe Streets, Cycle Toronto, and Toronto's Accessibility Advisory Committee, among others who have been advocating to achieve Vision Zero.

We would like to see an educational campaign to stop instances of all forms of distracted driving and would like to see the Toronto Police focus their enforcement campaigns to car drivers, and desist targeting people on bikes or on foot. **The most effective solution to improving road safety is to build streets that are safe by design, not by relying on police enforcement.**

If we are looking to achieve Vision Zero, the city needs to increase its commitment by expediting the implementation of Complete Street Guidelines across the city.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Stewart'.

Alison Stewart
Interim Co-Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Policy
Cycle Toronto

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported non-profit organization that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.