



November 9, 2023

Re: MM12.1 - Automated Traffic Enforcement on King Street

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Toronto City Councillors,

TTCriders is a membership-based organization of transit users in Toronto. We are writing in support of the motion from Councillors Chris Moise and Ausma Malik to explore the feasibility of implementing automated traffic enforcement on the King Street Transit Priority Corridor.

External cameras on TTC streetcars, buses, and Wheel-Trans vehicles have been activated since January 2019.¹ In September 2019, the TTC adopted a motion to request the Minister of Transportation to enact amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, 1990 to permit the operation of streetcar enforcement cameras to monitor and enforce traffic violations, as well as restate the TTC's previous requests about auto-ticketing in transit priority lanes.²

In 2021, the provincial government's *Moving Ontarians More Safely Act* introduced an automated camera enforcement framework to allow photo evidence of vehicles that illegally pass streetcars on the left or streetcars with the doors open to pick up or drop off passengers.³

A Washington report found that camera enforcement was the most efficient way to enforce transit priority.⁴ San Francisco, New York, and London use automated camera enforcement, with New York using a mix of on-bus cameras and stationary cameras on streets. Enforcement of bus lanes with cameras in New York resulted in increased bus speeds and ridership.

Toronto's Alliance for Safe & Active Streets has called for investment in equitable methods to manage traffic enforcement by reallocating resources away from on-the-ground police enforcement.⁵

Together, transit priority measures and the use of automated cameras for enforcement of transit priority corridors will make the TTC more reliable, attract more ridership and increase the speeds of buses and streetcars. More riders on faster, more reliable transit is a key way to reduce congestion and meet our climate goals through TransformTO.

Sincerely,

TTCriders

¹ <https://www.ttc.ca/riding-the-ttc/safety-and-security/external-cameras>

² https://ttc-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/Project/TTC/DevProto/Documents/Home/Public-Meetings/Board/2019/September_24/Reports/Decisions/20_Motion_without_Notice_Moving_Forward_with_Streetcar_Camer.pdf

³ <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1000004/moving-ontarians-more-safely-act-2021>

⁴ <https://mobilitylab.org/research/transit/automated-bus-lane-enforcement-is-more-effective-than-police-among-other-findings/>

⁵ https://assets.nationbuilder.com/cycletoronto/pages/685/attachments/original/1683656143/2022_Safe_and_Active_Streets_Election_Campaign_Overview.pdf