

May 23, 2024

Re: IE13.1 - A Micromobility Strategy for Toronto (Ward All)

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

TTCriders is a membership-based organization of transit users. We are writing to urge you to protect the precarious workers who work for food delivery on-demand businesses by placing the responsibility for the licensing and liability onto the app companies that determine the working conditions and wages of their workers.

Beyond the impact of unfair wages, lack of job security, job safety and the economic-well being of gig workers themselves, the payment model used by vehicle-for-hire and delivery by demand companies incentivises couriers to take dangerous risks - which impacts their own safety and the safety of others. The solution to improve Torontonians' safety is not to target precarious workers, but work with the app companies that have placed far too many risks, with little reward, on workers.

As such, we urge City Council to request the Ontario Ministry of Finance and the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario to consult with the insurance industry and other relevant parties on developing mandatory first and third party insurance requirements for delivery and passenger vehicle platforms to protect operators using micromobility vehicles to provide services through their platforms.

TTCriders believes that app-based delivery companies who are profiting from use of public infrastructure must be required to take responsibility for their workers and the impact on our city.

Providing people with accessible, affordable and sustainable transportation options that support the city's VisionZero and TransformTO climate action plan is critical to achieving 75% or all trips under 5 km from active transportation by 2030. Bikes, e-bikes and e-cargo bikes have been proven to move more people away from single car use occupancy trips.

It is therefore critical to expedite the implementation of the Cycling Network Plan by supporting Cycle Toronto's call to build over 150 km of new bikeways between 2025-2027. Safe infrastructure is urgently needed to protect vulnerable road users. With just four months into 2024, cyclist deaths have seen a 300% increase over 2023 - and 50% of these fatalities have been food delivery workers.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shelagh Plzey-Allen,
TTCriders