



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

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February 28, 2024

Executive Committee  
Toronto City Council  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, M5H 2N2

**RE: EX11.8 - Vehicle-for-Hire and Private Transportation Industries Update Request**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

Cycle Toronto supports the recommendation for a more fulsome consideration of driver wages along with the impact of vehicle-for-hire licensing in Toronto. As part of this analysis **Cycle Toronto urges you to include the food delivery on demand segment of these businesses.**

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with a proliferation of inexpensive (and poorly regulated) micro-mobility vehicles, changed food delivery in Toronto and across North America. In many ways, this booming industry demonstrates considerable potential for the role of micro-mobility in our city's economic future by moving away from reliance on cars and larger vehicles that contribute to increased congestion. These food delivery app companies, relying on the services of "gig workers", continue to operate largely without any official oversight, showing no regard for worker well-being or road safety in our city.

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. The delivery on-demand premise paired with the promise of receiving goods as quickly as possible has impacted the speed and behaviour of drivers and riders on our streets as they aim to make as many deliveries as quickly as possible. Low wages also mean couriers are often reliant on cheap, non-compliant e-bikes and e-scooters without safer UL-approved batteries. We look forward to Transportation Services' ongoing work on its overall micro-mobility strategy in helping articulate and address these issues as well.

It is Cycle Toronto's position that the app-based delivery companies who are profiting from the use of public infrastructure must be required to take responsibility for their workers and the impact on our city. The impact of vehicle-for-hire companies, which include food delivery on demand, when done by motor vehicles, contributes to traffic congestion and competes with public transit. The drivers and food delivery workers are responsible for their own vehicles, are mostly racialized newcomers who have few employment opportunities and live outside of Toronto due to the high cost of rent and groceries.

Improving access to efficient, convenient, and safe transportation options is integral to growing Toronto's multi-modal future. In order to achieve our VisionZero road safety goals and

TransformTO climate action targets, Cycle Toronto urges the city to commit to an ambitious 2025-2027 Cycling Network Plan expansion of at least 50 km a year.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Longfield', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Longfield  
Executive Director

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

