



February 26, 2024

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Matthew Green, Committee Administrator

**RE: IE 11.1 Congestion Management Plan 2023-2026 - Update**

Dear Chair, Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie, and Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations is in support of the update report and recommendations in response to Council Motions further to the Congestion Management Plan adopted by City Council in October 2023.

First, some preliminary comments. We need to remember that "congestion management" relates to "traffic" which generally implies and prioritizes cars/vehicles, as the preferred mode of travel and use of streets. We need to keep this in perspective. Cars and vehicles carrying one or perhaps two people may be efficient but it is not effective. So let's look at mobility involving all modes of transport especially public transport, not just "congestion". And consider charging for vehicular use of downtown streets as a congestion management technique (per New York and London)

We support increased fees for construction taking over lanes. Even more we should push back and have the construction servicing done from the construction site rather than from the public road.

We support increased fines and enforcement for blocking intersections, bike lanes, dedicated transit lanes, etc

We support measures to improve wayfinding (QR codes, data portal) including collaboration with CNIB and members of visually impaired community

We support a continuing commitment to public consultation.

We raise for your consideration an additional specific issue – that arises in regard to the proposal to increase work hours for capital projects: The report notes that “While there are technologies for noise suppression such as broadband reversing alarms, sometimes called ‘quackers’ or croakers, there are many construction methodologies such as piling, moving of dirt and debris and use of cement mixers that generate noise that cannot be suppressed.” We are pleased to see the reference to the fact that use of broadband reversing alarms suppresses noise. Noise from the back up beepers in common use is a major problem for anyone anywhere nearby. Our construction adviser, formerly head of construction for a major development company, has questioned why the excessively noisy back up beepers continue to be allowed, given the much better alternative available. In submissions re the Noise Bylaw Review, FoNTRA and others asked for new regulations to support their use. But no response!

We therefore ask for your help with promoting and requiring the use of broadband reversing alarms, not only for construction sites but other uses as well.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Roger Browne, Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.