



Nov. 26, 2024

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Toronto
Re: IE18.1 - Updates on Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Dear committee members,

Walk Toronto is very pleased to see that Toronto's Vision Zero budget will be increased in 2025. It has now become a significant investment, and that investment will save lives, prevent injuries, and encourage low-carbon, low-congestion mobility in Toronto.

We are strongly supportive of the various initiatives itemized in this report, including improved safety at pedestrian crossovers, speed reduction initiatives (including the return of a speed reduction advertising campaign), raised crossings, enhanced school travel programs, implementing truck aprons on city trucks, and many others.

We are particularly pleased that the report acknowledges the issue of the danger of TTC transit stops that do not have safe crossings (p. 19-20), an issue Walk Toronto has raised in the past but that had previously been dismissed. We are pleased that the City will begin to identify such locations for new traffic control devices, and we encourage prioritizing that solution over removing transit stops, which can only reduce service to pedestrians.

However, we have some concerns that we encourage councillors to consider and staff to reassess.

- 1) **Maintenance of zebra crossings.** We wholeheartedly endorse the plan to proactively install zebra crosswalk markings at all signalized intersections (p. 22-23). However, many existing zebra markings have worn off and not been replaced, and the City has no systematic plan to maintain them. The City needs to maintain existing markings as well as implement new ones.
- 2) **Implement the Council-directed change to Traffic Control Warrants.** In 2023, City Council directed staff to "amend the Traffic Control Warrants ... so that the "Collision Hazard" Warrant is satisfied if there has been at least one potentially preventable collision classified as a "Killed or Seriously Injured" collision" (p. 19). But staff seem to be delaying this simple measure due to further study. We encourage councillors to direct staff to immediately implement this simple change that was mandated by council.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid
On behalf of Walk Toronto

Walk Toronto is a grassroots volunteer association dedicated to making Toronto a better city for walking.