



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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November 26, 2024
Deputy Mayor McKelvie and members of IEC
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE18.5 - Feasibility of Requiring Side Guards on All Commercial Trucks Operating in the City of Toronto, Including Retrofitting the City's Fleet

Dear Deputy Mayor and IEC Chair McKelvie and members of IEC,

Cycle Toronto is writing in support of requiring all large commercial trucks that provide City services have side guards. Cycling and road safety advocates have long advocated for implementing side guards on large trucks. We would like to thank Mayor Chow for her long standing commitment and advocacy on this issue and applaud her leadership in moving the City to retrofit suitable City-owned commercial vehicles with side guards.

In 2011, a 38-year old woman died beneath the wheels of a large truck which spurred the City of Toronto to consider side guards. As outlined in the city staff report, side guards have the potential to reduce cyclist fatalities. Toronto is experiencing unprecedented levels of construction, and with it, large volumes of construction trucks on our streets and roads. This is a contributing factor to a deadly year on Toronto streets for cyclists, which has seen six fatalities, two of which were the result of collisions with large trucks.

The City of Toronto may not have the authority to regulate vehicles, but it does have the power to outfit its fleet of vehicles and the commercial vehicles operating on contract for the City of Toronto with side guards. The recent adoption of Bill 212 will impact Toronto's ability to implement safe cycling infrastructure, so making safety measures at the source is increasingly urgent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Stewart".

Alison Stewart
Director, Advocacy and Public Policy
Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charity that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.