City Council

Notice of Motion

MM20.7	ACTION			Ward: 11

Bike Share for Everyone: Allowing Young Torontonians to access Safe, Sustainable Commutes - by Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel

* Notice of this Motion has been given.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Toronto Parking Authority Board to allow Bike Share users ages 16 and 17 to ride classic (non-electronic) bikes without being accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

2. City Council request the Toronto Parking Authority Board to consider allowing Bike Share users between 14 and 16 years of age to ride classic bikes if being accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

Summary

In 2023, Bike Share Toronto recorded 5.7 million trips. This treasured city service makes it possible for thousands in our city to get around without a car - making transportation more affordable, sustainable, and efficient.

Yet a major demographic of residents is currently prevented from using Bike Share. Only Torontonians aged 18 and older are allowed to use Bike Share by themselves, with 16- and 17-year-olds requiring parental supervision and younger riders being banned outright. While the Toronto Parking Authority has reports that they do not enforce these age limits, formally eliminating them will ensure young people can use Bike Share to get around with confidence.

Allowing access to Bike Share while users are young is a key step in building a healthy, life-long habit of cycling. Adopting this motion would put Toronto among other world-class cities in encouraging young people to use Bike Share. New York permits users 16 years old and older to use their equivalent service, and Montreal permits users 14 years and older to use their equivalent service.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.7
(https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-247762.pdf)