

May 19 2026
Toronto City Hall
Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE29.7 - Feasibility of Requiring Side Guards on Contractor Commercial Vehicles Operating in the City of Toronto

To Mayor Chow and all members of Toronto City Council,



A small selection of loved people who were violently killed by the drivers of large trucks. Every single death was completely preventable. These people should still be alive.

Friends and Families for Safe Streets (FFSS) is a group of people whose loved ones were senselessly killed in violent traffic crashes, and people who survived a preventable crash with severe, life altering injuries. All of the trauma, violence and loss that was inflicted on us, very suddenly and utterly against our will, could have been prevented with effective Vision Zero measures, including improved truck design requirements.

We are writing to convey our strong support to require side guards to be installed on all commercial vehicles operating under contract to the city of Toronto, and in fact every single large commercial truck, no matter who it is operated by or for

Large trucks are extremely dangerous to the people outside of them and could hardly be more ill-suited to operation in an urban environment. Their poor cab design means they have huge front and side blind spots where people walking and biking are most likely to be, and they currently mostly don't have side guards. More victims than we can count have been struck and sucked under the rear wheels of cement mixers, dump trucks and other large commercial trucks and crushed to death, a horrific outcome that side guards are designed to prevent. This human carnage leaves an unbearable amount of suffering in its wake, with families, friends and communities thrust into lifelong nightmares of grief, anguish, and loss.

Please vote in favour of this motion, and **please be bold and go beyond to require all trucks operated in Toronto to be equipped with side guards** as a bare minimum, and require additional truck safety measures, such as **direct vision cabs and signal people where these large trucks' drivers make turns.**

It should go without saying: **any business or contractor operating large trucks for corporate profit must not kill innocent Torontonians.** The role of regulators at any level of government is to force businesses and contractors to operate safely. It is up to our leaders - you - to support the proven safety measures that will prevent truck drivers from killing people.

Please vote in favour of this motion, and go even further to make trucks safer so nobody else has to suffer the devastating loss of their loved one being horrifically killed by a truck driver.

Thank you,



Jess Spieker
Chair, Friends and Families for Safe Streets