

New Business

Moved by: Chair Stintz:

1. That TTC and City of Toronto staff undertake a feasibility study on making King Street, between Parliament Street in the east and possibly Shaw Street in the west, a transit-only corridor during the morning rush hour period; and
2. That the following aspects be included in the overall evaluation scope of the study:
 - i) Allowing bicycles, taxis and possibly delivery vehicles
 - ii) The impacts to neighbouring streets; and
 - iii) An increase in the number of transit signal priority intersections along King Street
 - iv) A prohibition on automobiles on streetcar tracks only

Chair and Members of the Board:

While the new TTC streetcars are larger and will provide for greater capacity, that in itself will not solve the issue of bunching and gapping on what is the busiest surface route (504 King), carrying 56,700 people a day – more than the Sheppard Subway line. Line management of a route like 504 King requires constant vigilance and it is becoming increasingly important to address and improve service reliability, not only on King Street, but on all routes for that matter.

Similar proposals have been made in the past relating to King Street, but those included all-day prohibitions on automobiles that were cause for concern for local businesses. A morning-only prohibition would naturally not be as impactful, however that would be part of any study undertaken.

The TTC, as you know, is seeing record ridership. It is necessary to advocate for our customers as the status quo is not acceptable. With development along King Street continuing to grow, so is transit use in that corridor. We must look at all possibilities to improve our service for the customers and taxpayers alike who rely on and pay for transit in Toronto.

For this reason I encourage you to support this motion for a joint TTC and City of Toronto study of this proposal.