



Motion without Notice

Moving Forward with Streetcar Camera Enforcement to Address Urgent Passenger Safety Concerns

Moved by: Chair Robinson

Seconded by: Commissioner Shelley Carroll

Summary

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019, a TTC passenger was struck by a truck while disembarking from the 511 Bathurst streetcar. TTC records indicate that this is not an isolated incident. From 2014 to 2016, 26 individuals were struck by either a car or bicycle when boarding or exiting a streetcar.

The TTC currently operates fifteen streetcar routes, eight of which operate in mixed traffic, requiring customers to cross the traffic lane adjacent to the curb in order to board or exit the vehicle. In order to ensure the safety of passengers, motorists and cyclists are required by Section 166 of the Highway Traffic Act, 1990 to stop behind streetcars while the doors are open.

From 2013 to 2019, various TTC Board motions have directed staff to explore the use of cameras to ensure passenger safety. As a result, an interdivisional team is currently working on a comprehensive strategy to improve safety for passengers entering and exiting streetcars. Two working groups comprised of staff from IT Services, Strategy & Service Planning, Vehicles Group, and Transit Enforcement, among others, have been formed to address this ongoing safety concern.

Legislative amendments to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act are required to permit the TTC to operate streetcar enforcement cameras. In October 2017, the former TTC Chair submitted a request to the former Minister of Transportation to amend the appropriate Provincial legislation to allow the TTC to use external cameras for traffic enforcement.

This matter is urgent as it pertains to the safety of passengers on the TTC streetcar network. In light of the most recent incident on the 511 Bathurst streetcar route, various stakeholder groups and Provincial representatives are working together to advocate for the necessary legislative changes at the Provincial level. The TTC Board has a unique opportunity to express their firm support of this initiative at this critical juncture.

Recommendation

1. The Toronto Transit Commission request the Minister of Transportation to enact amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, 1990 to permit the operation of streetcar enforcement cameras to monitor and enforce traffic violations.

Attachments

None.

Date: September 23, 2019