



Notice of Motion

Exploring Measures to Reduce Transit Pressures for Students During COVID

Moved by: Commissioner Brad Bradford

Seconded by: Vice-Chair Joanne De Laurentiis

Summary

With back to school starting for Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board on September 14th, the expected increase in transit ridership has already begun to materialize. Our operators and staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure safety measures are in place and public health guidance is being adhered to on our system but, as we all understand, distancing will not always be possible on the system.

This motion asks the TTC Board to request Toronto-based school boards and post-secondary institutions to work with our staff on measures to minimize crowding such as staggering class start times, encouraging active transportation, and other transportation demand management actions. As uncertainty around the trajectory of COVID-19 pandemic continues, it's important that the TTC, working with our partners in education, are prepared for all scenarios.

While the TTC has been proactively working to identify ways to support increased service on busy school routes, there is an opportunity for Toronto's education providers to also play a role in managing travel demand through school scheduling. Torontonians expect collaboration between all levels of governments and government agencies. With parents, families and educators under so much pressure with back to school in 2020 it couldn't be more important that we come together while staying apart, and plan for the health and safety of all students under any public health scenario. Engaging in this work may also support other efforts from Toronto Public Health to manage the potential impacts of back to school on COVID-19 spread in the city.

Recommendation

1. The TTC Board request TTC staff to continue to collaborate with Toronto-based school boards, and the Presidents of the largest Toronto-based post-secondary institutions to optimize instructional start times to maximize capacity and reduce crowding on TTC vehicles on busy routes serving schools, with emphasis on the five Transit Priority Corridors in the TTC's 2020-24 5-Year Service Plan.

Date: September 15, 2020