

URGENT MOTION

Safety Concerns Raised by Toronto Fire Services about St. Clair Avenue West

Moved by: Councillor Palacio _____

Seconded by: Councillor Walker _____

SUMMARY:

This is an urgent matter of public safety. Senior Toronto Fire Staff have conducted an extensive 20-page internal review (copy attached) of the St. Clair exclusive right-of-way project and have concluded that “The TTC ROW on St. Clair Avenue West is without doubt unsafe” (Page 10), among many other conclusions, including:

- “The TTC ROW as constructed on St.Clair Avenue West is not useable by Toronto Fire Services for emergency response” (Page 20)
- “There is no doubt that there will be delays in emergency vehicle responses on St.Clair Avenue West” (Page 3)
- “Personal injury to persons at streetcar stops are possible as well as TFS personnel on the apparatus” (Page 5)
- “More likely, it will cause the fire apparatus to move into the poles supporting the traction power lines damaging the side of the apparatus. In the extreme it will cause the apparatus to drive into one of the poles supporting the traction power lines or indeed hit a streetcar head on” (Page 5)
- “There is considerable risk to all if TFS use this TTC ROW as an access route. Adverse climatic conditions will only make the TTC ROW more perilous” (Page 10), among many others.

Construction of the St. Clair Avenue West exclusive right-of-way is currently underway and new phases of the project are about to be tendered with this old, severely flawed and dangerous design. This is an urgent concern of public safety for the literally tens of thousands of local residents who live in the vicinity of St. Clair Avenue West and who rely on emergency vehicles to be able to move quickly and safely across the street.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) All work and new tenders relating to the exclusive right-of-way on St. Clair Avenue West be halted immediately, pending a resolution to this urgent safety issue.
- 2) The City Solicitor be directed to submit a report directly to City Council in camera as to whether the City and TTC have breached the terms and conditions of the

Environmental Assessment, and whether any additional liability to the City may arise out of the issues identified in this report.

- 3) Toronto Fire Services be asked to report to the next meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on what alterations and/or minimum clearances are necessary in order for all emergency vehicles to safely use the right-of-way and for response times to remain unchanged on St. Clair West.
- 4) That the Auditor General be asked to review this report and make appropriate recommendations to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.
- 5) Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto Fire Services, EMS and Police staff be asked to meet immediately to discuss how the existing design may be modified to make it acceptable to all emergency services.
- 6) A meeting of the Transit Community Liaison Committee (TCLC) established by the Minister of the Environment be held immediately to discuss this matter.

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