



Notice of Motion

Impact of Ride-Hailing on Transit

Moved by: Commissioner Shelley Carroll

Seconded by: Commissioner Brad Bradford

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic decline in transit ridership. The choices we make as society reopens will set the pattern for how people move around in the future. Staff have raised important questions about the impact of ride-hailing impact on transit. I am writing today to ask for answers to these questions.

In the Ridership Growth Strategy 2018-2022, the TTC acknowledged the issue of digital ride-hailing diverting customers from transit. Our own numbers show adult ridership last saw significant growth in 2014 – the very year Uber started operating in the Toronto market. Since then ridership has been stable or declined.

The TTC and the City of Toronto need accurate, credible information so that we can make informed decisions. In light of existing budget problems, discussions around fare increases, and a post-pandemic recovery, it is absolutely essential to fully understand the impact that ride hailing companies like Uber and Lyft have on TTC fare revenue.

Recommendation

1. The TTC Board direct the Chief Executive Officer to commission an independent, third party study of the impact of ride-hailing services on public transit, which specifically studies:
 - a. Rides lost annually to ride-hailing since 2014
 - b. Ride loss projections based on
 - i. Anticipated growth of ride-hailing and
 - ii. Changing rider concerns during and after the pandemic.
 - c. The corresponding impact on fare revenue and, therefore, the TTC operating budget.
 - d. Changes to traffic congestion, vehicle kilometres travelled (including commuting, cruising, on route and in-service time) by PTC vehicles and corresponding effect on TTC surface transit caused by the growth of ride-hailing apps.

Date: April 1, 2021