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November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Parks and Environment Committee  
City Hall  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

## Re: Reducing Health Risks from Traffic-Related Air Pollution (TRAP) in Toronto (PE 23.7)

Dear Committee Members:

TAF would like to commend Toronto Public Health and the Environment and Energy Division for their research and reporting on the health impacts of Traffic-Related Air Pollution (TRAP). TRAP has very serious implications for human health and quality of life, accounting for an estimated 280 premature deaths and 1100 hospitalizations in 2014 alone.<sup>1</sup>

*TAF supports the full package of staff recommendations on this item.* In particular, TAF strongly supports the actions in the following areas:

**Improved monitoring of air quality:** the severity of TRAP varies dramatically across different neighbourhoods; Torontonians need and deserve better information about air quality in their neighbourhoods, and the resulting data will also help to drive better policy decisions. It's also critical to model the economic costs of TRAP-related health impacts and to consider them in future decision-making.

**Improved emission standards related to fuel, vehicles and engines:** Reducing TRAP emissions needs to be the top priority, and regulatory standards are the most effective tool available. With emissions standards threatened in multiple jurisdictions south of our border, it is now more important than ever to take leadership and align with California's best practices in this area.

**Building Retrofits:** Meeting our climate targets will require major energy retrofits to the majority of existing buildings. TAF would like to highlight the synergies that exist between energy retrofits and indoor air quality. Through our Towerwise program, we have demonstrated how comprehensive energy

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-108667.pdf>



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retrofits can and should be designed to dramatically improve air quality for building occupants.

We were pleased to see the recommendation of requesting financing and funding from the Province for retrofits to increase air quality. We would also like to suggest that the City examine funding and financing opportunities within their own existing programs such as HELP, Hi-RIS, and the Sustainable Energy Plan Financing Program.

TAF urges the Committee to approve these recommendations, and furthermore to remember the devastating impacts of TRAP when evaluating future policy options and budget priorities. While the recommendations outlined to City Council are an important first step to reducing TRAP, one of the most important long term solutions is the electrification of vehicles, which would eliminate all local air pollution stemming from transportation. Electrification of transportation is a key element of the TransformTO Strategy.

Sincerely,

Bryan Purcell  
Director of Policy and Programs  
The Atmospheric Fund