



December 8, 2020

Executive Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: EX19.11 - 2021 Rate Supported Budgets - Toronto Parking Authority**

Dear Mayor and Members of the Executive Committee

ClimateFast is a dedicated volunteer group that works toward urgent and substantial action on climate change and climate justice. We recognize that we are in a climate crisis and need coordinated action from all levels of government, businesses, communities, and individuals to achieve deep cuts in carbon emissions. We are pleased with much of the work that City Council and staff have accomplished over the past years to address the climate emergency. We also acknowledge that the current pandemic has created enormous stress on City budgets and services along with an atmosphere of uncertainty.

At this time, we would like to address the budget for the Toronto Parking Authority that the Executive Committee will consider on December 10, 2020. We are happy to see that over the past year Bike Share has grown significantly, both in membership and usage, and the number of docks and bikes.

Our main area of concern is the capital budget, which calls for a \$157.2 million expenditure to expand parking facilities. We realize that this expansion will replace lost parking spaces and will be funded by TPA reserves. However, given that *“transportation is the second greatest source of GHG emissions in Toronto, responsible for an estimated 38 per cent of local emissions”* and *“passenger vehicles are responsible for the great majority (79 per cent) of local transportation GHG emissions”*<sup>1</sup>, we urge you to decrease investment in parking and further support Bike Share and seek other opportunities for green investments.

The Climate Emergency Declaration made by Council on October 2 and 3, 2019 called for the application of a “*climate lens that evaluates and considers the climate impacts of all major City of Toronto decisions, including financial decisions*”<sup>ii</sup>. Surely this is an area in which a climate lens should be applied. City Council also committed to “*looking for opportunities to invest in and accelerate high priority emission reduction areas in TransformTO, such as building retrofits and transportation*”<sup>ii</sup>.

We were pleased to note that the Budget Committee requested a Briefing Note be submitted to the Executive Committee on “*what could be done as part of the 2021 Toronto Parking Authority budget to help achieve city climate change targets, including expanding bikeshare and cycling facilities at Toronto Parking Authority lots, greening facilities, enhancing storm water management, and electric vehicle charging facilities at Toronto Parking Authority lots.*”<sup>iii</sup> We are anxious to learn the contents of this submission and hope it will be a positive step towards a net-zero carbon target.

We look forward to working with City Council and staff to mobilize around the climate crisis and the COVID-19 recovery challenge. By undertaking concerted, collective and decisive actions **NOW** we can create a green, equitable, and healthy city.

Lorna McCue  
Municipal Subcommittee Lead  
ClimateFast

---

<sup>i</sup> COVID-19: Impacts and Opportunities, p. 124

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9133-torr-covid19-impacts-opportunities-2020.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Toronto City Council Minutes MM10.3: October 2-3, 2019:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM10.3>

<sup>iii</sup> 2021 Rate Supported Budgets - Toronto Parking Authority:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-159019.pdf>