



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Government Management Committee
Chair, Board of Management Toronto Zoo

Constituency Office
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 4N7
Tel: 416-396-7222
Fax: 416-392-4006
Email: councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca
f Councillor Paul Ainslie

EX25.24

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Suite C52
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
Tel: 416-392-4008
www.paulainslie.com
Twitter: [cllrainслиe](https://twitter.com/cllrainслиe)

Date: May 2, 2017
To: Mayor John Tory and Executive Committee Members
Re: Exploring the feasibility of unlocking the Gattineau Hydro Corridor for residential development

Recommendation:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report on the feasibility of unlocking the Hydro One Gattineau Hydro Corridor for residential development, including the development of affordable housing, starting with a pilot project from Morningside Avenue westward to Scarborough Golf Club Road, such report to include consultations with Hydro One on the undergrounding of overhead hydro wires and identifying the scope of any required environmental assessment.

As the City of Toronto deals with the task of adding affordable housing units to the city, the issue of the lack of land has been highlighted. A solution may be found in utilizing the Hydro One Limited Gattineau Corridor lands.

In order to considering these lands for residential communities, an environment study would be required to ensure the areas are suitable to build up and sustain residential communities.

Undergrounding hydro wires is not a new idea. The concept was supported by Toronto City Council in July 2015 as part of a review done for proper infrastructure support as a result of issues from the December 2013 ice storm. Recommendations can be found here: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX7.5>. Recommendation Number 4 states: "City Council request that Toronto Hydro enhance the resiliency of the electrical supply in Toronto through storm hardening, targeted conversion of overhead lines to underground, and conducting a Climate Change Adaptation Study".

Work to explore undergrounding hydro wires has already begun through the adopted recommendations, as confirmed in the June 16, 2015 correspondence by Anthony Haines. Toronto Hydro President and CEO which states "We continue to collaborate with various areas at the City of Toronto on recommendations of mutual interest. This includes working with the City's Urban Forestry Division and Major Capital Infrastructure Coordination Office to address reliability issues and potential undergrounding." This work provides a further opportunity to further investigate if the lands would be suitable for residential communities with a focus on affordable housing.

Exploring the feasibility of a pilot project in the Hydro One Limited Gattineau Hydro Corridor to see a portion of the area utilized for residential communities is an opportunity which needs to be explored.

I look forward to your support on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Councillor Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43