

**From:** [Lindsay Wiginton](#)  
**To:** [Public Works and Infrastructure Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Nithya Vijayakumar](#); [Dianne Zimmerman](#)  
**Subject:** Pembina Institute support for Item PW 24.8  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 3:42:15 PM

---

Dear Councillor Robinson, Chair, and Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

We would like to applaud your committee and City staff for taking the first steps toward the adoption of a Freight and Goods Movement Strategy, via the proposed Freight and Goods Movement Strategy Framework before you at this week's meeting (Item PW 24.8).

As identified in the accompanying staff report, goods movement drives Toronto's economy, but with rapid growth and increasing pressure on the road network to serve multiple modes, commercial vehicles are increasingly suffering from, and causing, congestion. Facilitating efficient goods movement is critical to quality of life in Toronto and the City's ability to meet its adopted GHG reduction targets. Ontario-wide, heavy-duty vehicles are responsible for just under 10% of the province's emissions, and this is growing. Finally, the City's own studies have identified road vehicles as a key source of emissions affecting local air quality (<https://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=913c77e5c2991410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>).

In 2014 we brought together key stakeholders to identify policy options and innovative ideas that government and businesses can implement to improve goods movement in Toronto. One of the recommendations included in the resulting report, *Greening the Goods* (see link below), was for the City of Toronto to develop an urban freight strategy to prioritize policies and programs that can reduce environmental impacts and improve the efficiency of deliveries in the city. City staff reports at this time echoed this call for an urban freight strategy in Toronto (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.HL30.1>).

Through our own ongoing work and research, we witness first-hand the ways in which an overarching strategy on goods movement would support planning excellence and help reduce congestion in the City of Toronto. Opportunities include:

1. Increasing both data collection and access to existing data on truck movements to support evidence-based policymaking;
2. Aligning zoning amendments and transportation network changes with an overarching vision for how goods will move in the City and across municipalities;
3. Clarifying the application of the City's Complete Streets Guidelines and other existing policies with respect to freight movement;
4. Harnessing opportunities to support innovative solutions to increase the efficiency and reduce emissions from freight in Toronto, thereby supporting the industries and businesses that rely on the movement of goods.

We believe the proposed Freight and Goods Movement Strategy Framework is a good starting point and we encourage you to move this work forward as fast as possible. We also encourage you to

ensure that all concerned city divisions, including staff in public health and environment, are a core part of the effort to ensure best outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Lindsay Wiginton, RPP, MCIP, on behalf of the Pembina Institute**

Analyst, Transportation and Urban Solutions | Pembina Institute  
[lindsayw@pembina.org](mailto:lindsayw@pembina.org) | c: 514-743-9244 | t: 647-478-9563 ext. 210  
600–920 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M4W 3C7  
[www.pembina.org](http://www.pembina.org)

**Further reading**

Pembina Institute reports on initiatives to inform the development of a Freight and Goods Movement Strategy for the City of Toronto:

- Local Planning for Goods Movement in Ontario (2017): <http://www.pembina.org/pub/local-planning-for-goods-movement-ontario>
- Greening the Goods (2014): <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2536>
- Improving Urban Freight Efficiency (2017): <https://www.pembina.org/pub/improving-urban-freight-efficiency>
- Cyclelogistics - Opportunities for moving goods by bicycle in Toronto: <https://www.pembina.org/pub/cyclelogistics>
- Piloting a neighbourhood freight forum in North York (ongoing): <https://www.pembina.org/freightforum>