



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

March 29, 2019

Toronto City Council

Toronto City Clerk

City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Agenda Item EX4.2: The Future of King Street - Results of the Transit Pilot

Dear Councillors and City Clerk:

The David Suzuki Foundation supports the King Street pilot and requests it be made permanent. Transportation remains Ontario's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Offering Torontonians alternatives to the gasoline-powered automobile is essential. By prioritizing transit, the pilot makes an important contribution to climate change mitigation.

The pilot is magnificent because it addresses a range of urban problems. By restricting motor vehicles and making streetcars more reliable, it busts congestion. It shifts commuters to electric-powered transit and improves air quality. It turns the street into a more attractive destination for cyclists and walkers, with obvious public-health benefits. King's new charm makes it a magnet for diners and shoppers.

The pilot has an aesthetic dimension. Its public art enhances the roadway's beauty. Pedestrians experience a new sense of expansiveness, even freedom. The harsh noise of traffic is muted. Streetcars glide by on what now resembles a country road. One can hear bird song.

We urge city council to make the King pilot permanent and to give transit vehicles priority on many other thoroughfares.

Gideon Forman, climate change and transportation policy analyst

The David Suzuki Foundation