



June 18, 2021

Infrastructure & Environment Committee  
City Hall, Committee Room 1  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

**RE: Shining a Light on Toronto Hydro by Updating Street Lighting Options**

Toronto Hydro provides a critical service in delivering lighting to Toronto streets. However, the City's agreement with Toronto Hydro, through Transportation Service, has some significant gaps that are creating community concerns about accessibility and safety.

The current agreement with Toronto Hydro requires the road to be properly lit, but not the sidewalk, leaving many sidewalks relying on adjacent buildings, if any, for illumination. In some areas of the City, this can create accessibility and safety concerns.

There are also community design aspirations and existing local lighting standards that the current agreement does not assist with nor protect in the long-term. If a new light is to be installed or an existing light replaced, Toronto Hydro typically will default to a standard design, such as the "Cobra Head" Luminaire which is attached to 25 foot poles.

This design, while functional, is not a suitable replacement for many areas of the City that have paid for and/or historically used other standards. As an example, Victorian-style lighting standards in some parts of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood reflect both the Old Town heritage character and provide pedestrian scale lighting. Without an identical or similar lighting standard option, these lights are being replaced by Toronto Hydro's standard and sometimes much taller poles as they are damaged or reach their end of life. Without an approved alternative, reinstating the previous neighbourhood-specific lights is both challenging and expensive.

It would be helpful to understand the status of the City's current agreement with Toronto Hydro, when it expires or is up for renewal, and what additional options could be considered

to both expand lighting to City sidewalks and to create new lighting standards, both functional and aesthetically deserved, that can respond to specific neighbourhood needs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The Infrastructure & Environment Committee requests that the General Manager of Transportation Services report back to the October 26, 2021 Infrastructure & Environment Committee meeting with details on the current agreement with Toronto Hydro, including information on the current status of the agreement, when it expires or is up for renewal, and options for adding new lighting standards to the list of those approved for use and installation by Toronto Hydro.

Respectfully submitted,

**Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam**  
Ward 13, Toronto Centre