

From: [Dynamic](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Cc: [Councillor Grimes](#)
Subject: Comments for the Infrastructure and environment committee meeting on December 2nd
Date: December 1, 2021 12:12:48 AM

To the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

I am writing today to submit comments in support of passing all measures which will bolster the city's efforts to accelerate emissions reductions and expand access to sustainable lifestyles. In particular, I'd like to ensure that Council support the following measures from this meeting's agenda:

- IE.26.6 Actions to Reaffirm Toronto's Tree Canopy
- IE.26.9 2021 Cycling Network Plan
- IE.26.10 Update on 2020 ActiveTO projects
- IE.26.11 Cargo E-Bike Pilot
- IE.26.12 Automated Micro-Utility Devices
- IE.26.13 Accessible Sidewalks and the recent Supreme Court decision
- IE.26.16 Critical Steps to NetZero by 2040
- IE.26.17 Extending the Home Energy Transfer Program
- IE.26.18 Wastewater Energy Transfer Program
- IE.26.19 Pocket Plus neighbourhood climate action plan

The reason for my request is simple: we are not doing nearly enough to address the most pressing crisis of our lives, and every measure which can advance our adaptation and address the root causes of the crisis is urgently needed.

I cannot express strongly enough how infuriating it is to be inheriting this problem. I have been hearing about the climate crisis since I was a grade schooler. I'll be turning **40** next month - yet the crisis is not only still unresolved, but actually worsening. The reason for this is not technical or economical; we have both the knowledge and the resources to resolve the issue. The only holdup has been an absence of political willingness to deal with the world as it is.

My wife and I are hoping to have a child of our own very soon. I'll be damned if I'm going to leave the same legacy of failure and procrastination to my descendents. The buck stops here. We cannot wait for other levels of government to take action or other countries to lead the way. We must set the example right here and right now.

I am so proud to be a Torontonian. I know that we have the solutions to this crisis right here in our city. We have only to act on them. Our city has made great progress, and there are some outstanding policies in the measures listed above. We must be enforcing much more rigorous building standards for new buildings, expanding transit reach and accessibility (including fare-free transit for all), delivering rapid expansion of active transportation avenues, and expanding efforts to retrofit existing buildings and deliver carbon-free transportation and public infrastructure. I am grateful to see much of these covered in the measures under consideration.

This is the issue of our lifetimes, and the debate is over. The science is very clear, and so are

the solutions. We know what needs to happen; it's time to get it done. I urge the committee to support passage of each and every one of these sustainability measures -- and then to move forward with still further ambition, until we're matching our efforts to the scale the science so clearly demands.

If you are still on the fence about any of these measures, I will ask only this: put yourself in my shoes for a moment. My wife and I are weighing, even now, whether it's safe to bring a child into this world. **We genuinely do not know if our child will have a future.** Imagine the anxiety of that prospect. Imagine the desperation. Imagine the fury and outrage that this **preventable** crisis is being dropped on our laps at the expense of our children.

Imagine the hopelessness of knowing, scientifically, that it may be physically unsafe to start a family.

Like anyone, we are going to do everything we can to protect our child's future. All I am asking is for you to do the same.

Do everything you can. Support every measure. Pass every bill. Do everything in your power to give the family we dream of a chance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Tim Ellis (he/him)
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