



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

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March 20, 2023

Toronto City Hall
Executive Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: EX3.4 - City of Toronto Relationship Framework for the Toronto Parking Authority

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

Within its mandate, the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) has the incredible responsibility of delivering some of Toronto's most important programs that support the City's Climate Action objectives: promoting cycling as a healthier clean-air alternative to single occupancy car use, supporting car-share services, providing the EV charging infrastructure to support the adoption of EVs, and other Transportation Services Programs such as the Freight and Goods Movement Strategy. In addition to these services that support active modes of transportation, the TPA is also tasked with providing and overseeing on and off-street parking.

The city won't meet its climate mitigation targets and succeed in alleviating the traffic congestion linked to single car use if the integration of Toronto's Transportation network does not prioritize active modes over car use. **Cycle Toronto recommends that the City of Toronto's relationship framework with the TPA should be amended to clarify their hierarchy of needs to the priorities around climate change mitigation (TransformTO), road safety (Vision Zero), and equity.**

The TPA operates in a commercial market environment and manages capital requirements in a self financing manner. In 2022, parking demand returned to just 74% of pre-pandemic (2019) parking levels, while Bike Share ridership has increased 70% in the same time period. 2023 parking revenues are expected to reach just 84% of 2019 levels, while Bike Share is expecting 2023 revenue growth of 10% (this after a 14% of revenue in 2022 vs. 2021). The "Hybrid Work Model" will continue to impact the travel behaviour of people. **The TPA should adopt a city-wide approach that better integrates on and off-street parking, Bike Share Toronto, and the city's EV infrastructure into how it prioritizes Toronto's active transportation network and the city's mobility eco-system over single car occupancy.**

In order for Toronto to meet its own goals to improve public health outcomes, reduce climate emissions, and be more equitable, the city must prioritize expanding active modes of transportation over car ownership and the costly infrastructure needed to support automobility. It is important that

the Toronto Parking Authority be directed to prioritize its programs, and respective subsidies, on active modes of transportation. Cycle Toronto would like to make the following recommendations to improve the current framing of the City of Toronto and TPA's Relationship Framework:

1. Using an equity impact assessment to prioritize and set out a hierarchy of needs and priorities to direct how TPA prioritizes its operations and cost revenue priorities.
2. Link the City's strategic objectives that need to be met through TPA to the services they provide by specifically stating them (TransformTO, Vision Zero, Equity, Covid Recovery, Congestion Management etc.)
3. Prioritize the delivery of its programs to incentivize mode change to public transportation by incentivizing access and affordability of Bike Share over facilitating parking.
4. Take an integrated approach to its pricing strategy with the wider transportation network with the goal of seeking fare integration between TTC, Bike Share, GO and on and off-street parking.

It shouldn't be cheaper to drive and park in Toronto than take public transit. If Toronto is serious about prioritizing public health, climate action, and transportation equity, making public transportation more accessible, affordable and convenient must be prioritized over private vehicular travel.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Alison Stewart
Interim Co-Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Policy
Cycle Toronto

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported non-profit organization that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.