

24 Communications were received with text similar to the following:

Dear City of Toronto Budget Committee,

To confront the climate crisis, we must rapidly reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector, the source of a quarter of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. To do this, we need to expand public transit service and encourage equitable transit-oriented development to shift people out of polluting cars.

The TTC carries 1 out of every 4 public transit riders in the entire country. This makes the City of Toronto's budgetary priorities enormously impactful for reducing transport emissions in Canada.

Environmental Defence is currently campaigning for the federal government to accelerate public transit funding for cities across the country, including for operating funding to be delivered to the TTC on a permanent basis.

We believe that all orders of government must work together to stop the dreaded public transit 'downward spiral'.

We congratulate the City of Toronto for stepping up with a budget with significant revenue increases that we believe are needed to invest in city services, like public transit, that are crucial in the fight against climate change.

It is incredibly important to invest in improving TTC services and making fares more affordable to bring back transit riders, restore greater financial stability to the system, and ultimately set the foundation for shifting travel patterns to sustainable modes.

You are going in the right direction - **keep going**.

I support the calls from Environmental Defence to:

- **Raise needed revenues for public transit and environmental priorities through property taxes** to recover how much this tax base has eroded relative to property values compared to other municipalities across Ontario.
- **Implement a commercial parking levy to raise revenues for public transit**, placing the burden on corporate parking lot owners while encouraging more sustainable land-use patterns.
- **Accelerate implementation of the RapidTO program to occur on 20 long-distance bus or streetcar corridors**. This will speed up public transit service and make the TTC more cost-efficient by not wasting dollars paying for buses and streetcars to sit in traffic and behind red lights.
- **Expand support to low-income riders** through the Fair Pass program by expanding eligibility and discounts.
- **Create more public transit-supportive housing density** by incentivizing enough new homes in Toronto to stop pushing would-be Torontonians into Golden Horseshoe sprawl. This should include rezoning to permit six storey, 30 unit, wood-frame, apartment buildings without on-site parking built without requiring re-zoning approval in residential neighbourhood lots across the entire city. This should start with residential streets directly served by public transit and residential lots surrounding public parks.
- **Fund a dedicated busway for Scarborough public transit riders**.

It's time to implement funding solutions for public transit that help us meet our climate goals, stops sprawl and makes our lives more affordable.

Sincerely,

Signed by the following:

Shae Byer

Hélia Paulo

Judi Walsh

Louise Hanly

David Groppe

Joanne Preece

Zoe Keary-Matzner

Chris Gapski

Roberta Tevlin

Nadereh Fouladvand

Elaine Manatad

Shiva Amiri

John Struyk

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