



July 22, 2025

RE: Comments on Agenda Items EX25.4, EX25.31, IE23.6 and IE23.9

Dear Mayor Chow and City of Toronto Councillors,

On behalf of ClimateFast I urge you all to follow City policy and strategy and apply a climate lens to Toronto's planning and decision making. In particular we would like to highlight the following items before council this week:

1. EX25.4 - RapidTO: Transit Priority on Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street

The designated bus lanes on Bathurst and Dufferin are critical. ClimateFast urges council to vote in favour of the current plan and in fact we would advise that the lanes be extended north as originally planned as soon as possible. This must be done before FIFA. Riders and car drivers alike will learn from the experience that there is great value in moving people quickly on public transit. These priority lanes have been promised for years and are needed for the 75,000 commuters on Dufferin and Bathurst. They were supported by 75% (Dufferin) and 67% (Bathurst) of those who participated in public consultations (thousands did). Only one bus lane has been completed so far.

ClimateFast also calls on council to move forward on other long-promised RapidTO routes, including Jane Street, Finch Avenue East, Steeles Avenue, and Lawrence Avenue East.

The example of the Eglinton East priority bus lane reveals that bus lanes make economic sense as well! According to the city website, in total, the project cost approximately \$4 million and since then there has been an annual savings of \$2.5 million in operating costs and a one-time capital cost savings of \$6.3 million due to [decreased travel time and the need for fewer buses to provide the same level of service.](#)

2. EX25.31 - A Better Way to Replace Your Furnace: Helping Homeowners Switch to Heat Pumps

We know that buildings are the number one emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto. To help homeowners switch from gas to heat pumps would be an incredible step forward in lowering Toronto's GHG emissions while helping families access clean, affordable and sustainable heating and cooling.

ClimateFast fully supports Mayor Chow's initiative on this and calls on council to vote yes to Heat Pumps for all!!

3. IE23.6 - Cycling Network Plan - 2025 Cycling Infrastructure and Missing Sidewalk Installation - Second Quarter Update

ClimateFast is very disappointed that no new kilometers of bike lanes were added to Toronto streets in this quarter.

More than one-third of emissions are from transportation, the vast majority from private cars. TransformTO goals require a very significant modal shift from cars to transit walking and cycling. We will only achieve a significant shift when transit walking and cycling are advantaged over single occupancy vehicles. Bike lanes and sidewalks are essential to shift people from cars to transit, walking and cycling.

We urge the Council to immediately start building and improving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

4. IE23.9 - Fossil Fuel Advocacy Advertising on City Assets

The City of Toronto must go further than the Staff report's suggestions and commit to an outright, complete ban of fossil fuel advertising on City Assets. While we support the addressing of greenwashing in the report, the City (and Council) needs to show bold, decisive and effective leadership. Council has an opportunity to send a message that they understand fossil fuel driven climate change is the greatest threat to human health. Additionally, the impacts of changing weather patterns are costing Toronto much, much more than any advertising revenue could bring in. (We can all remember the devastating impacts of the July 2024 floods and the [\\$1B of insured losses suffered by residents.](#))

A ban on advertising is not unique. [45 cities worldwide](#) have done so. France [banned fossil fuel ads in 2022](#). [The UK parliament is debating a fossil fuel advertising ban.](#)

If we are serious about meeting our climate action goals, as outlined in TransformTO then the City must do better in making progress towards renewable, clean energy. Not promoting an industry that is making Toronto more expensive, less healthy and less equitable.

Sincerely,

Susan Bakshi, Co-Chair
ClimateFast