



## DEPUTATION – EX 20.7 Commercial Parking Levy

January 28, 2025

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm speaking both as a resident of Toronto St. Paul's and as Co-Chair of ClimateFast, a community group advocating for climate action – fast – since 2012.

We are calling on the City to implement a levy on large commercial parking lots across Toronto. However, this report states that MPAC (the provincial-level agency that assesses property sizes and value) has stopped providing the City with the data we need to move forward.

Toronto needs a Commercial Parking Lot Levy and that should be implemented in-house at the City without MPAC if necessary.

It's our understanding that such a levy is in place in many other cities and municipalities. The levy in Montreal charges nearly ten times the rate proposed for Toronto, bringing in much-needed revenue for transit.

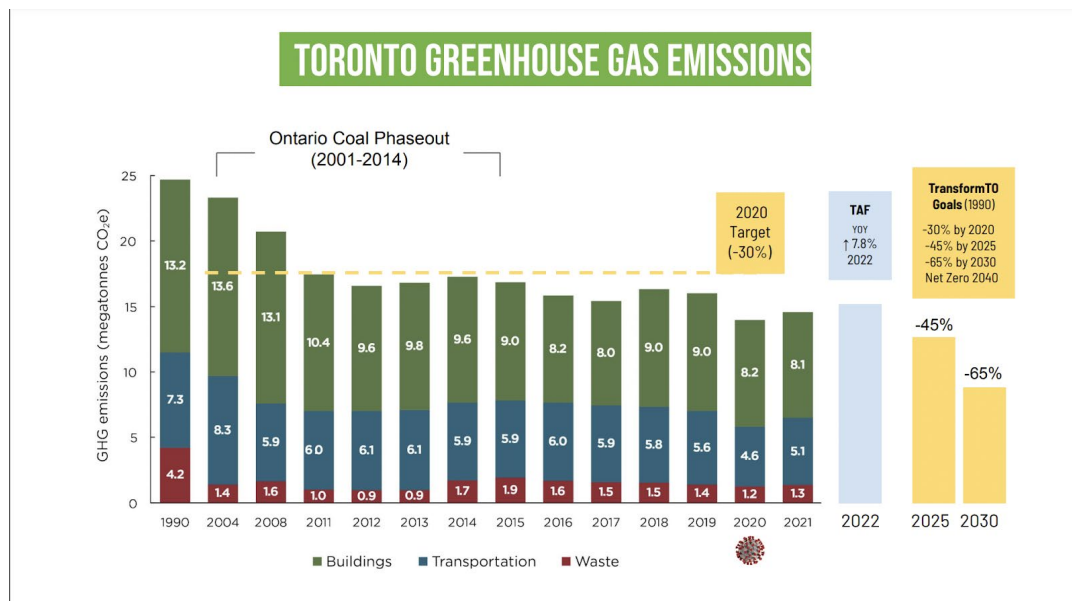
Delaying implementing a commercial parking levy just costs us money and as we all know our budget is stretched. The income will be well used if it helps us to maintain a state of good repair, improve service levels, and keep transit affordable.

We note that owners of large parking lots, including malls, benefit from the service transit provides to bring shoppers to their malls. It's important to give back.

We need a well-functioning transit system to meet our TransformTO climate targets.

To achieve our target, we need to shift travel patterns from private cars to transit, walking, and cycling. Doing so will also relieve congestion.

It will help us get us back on track with reducing emissions. As you can see in this chart our emissions are now increasing rather than decreasing and we may not meet our 2025 target of 45% below 1990 levels. Our 2030 target requires a further 20% reduction to achieve 65% below 1990 levels.



Council adopted these targets in 2021 in response to the need to accelerate our climate action plan, and in response to the advocacy by Fridays for Future, and the climate movement in Toronto and around the world. In 2019 the City of Toronto declared a climate emergency.

Last year we crossed the 1.5 C limit set by the 2015 Paris climate summit and according to the [2024 report](#) by the Copernicus Climate Change Service we are headed to a 3 degree rise by 2050 with dire consequences where large parts of the world are unlivable. Toronto can demonstrate leadership on climate and to do so we need to take the steps forward that are available to us.

**We owe it to youth to do everything in our power to achieve these targets.** Charging a levy on large commercial parking lots is within our power. With the income we could continue to reduce fares while improving service. A first step toward the free transit that is envisaged in the plan for achieving net zero would be to make transit free for secondary and post-secondary students as the City of Kingston does.

In summary, this is income that is needed by the city, it is collected by other cities, it can help improve access to transit and reduce congestion in our city. It will take us in the right direction on our climate targets. Let's take this step – now.

Sincerely,

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