



July 15, 2025

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

Mayor Chow & Executive Committee Members,

I am writing today, on behalf of ClimateFast, to express our support for the establishment of transit priority bus service on Bathurst and Dufferin Streets, from the Waterfront to Eglinton Avenue West. We also call on the members of the Executive Committee to reject recommendation number 12 and efficiently, and expediently build transit priority lanes along these segments within the scope of the entire project.

ClimateFast is a grassroots climate and social equity organization with over 2000 members - most of whom are residents in the GTA. A large part of work is to advocate for climate mitigation and adaptation measures to be implemented in Toronto to ensure our city is prepared for the future changes and challenges the climate crisis will bring. We speak with people from all corners of the City, from all walks of life and with many different points of view. However, there is one commonality that is easily expressed: The status quo isn't working when it comes to getting around in Toronto.

Toronto's congested streets need to be fixed and we need to start looking for real solutions that take into account ALL of Toronto residents - not just a few. Dedicated bus lanes would be a step forward to recognizing that the City needs to support multi-modal transportation that includes not only cars but also public transit, bikes and walking. By creating dedicated bus lanes the City would increase the reliability and efficiency of our TTC, a system that is currently slowed down by single occupancy vehicles. And a more reliable, efficient system will potentially increase ridership - decreasing private cars and thus congestion.

Reducing the number of cars on the road is also critical to meeting the goals of the TransformTO.

TransformTO NetZero Strategy is the City of Toronto's climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2040. While the targets laid out in TransformTO are ambitious, the strategy takes a multi-solver approach and can, as a result, provide benefits to the health, economy and social justice of residents while taking steps to prepare Toronto for the impacts of a changing climate.

Currently 35% of Toronto's GHG emissions are from the transportation sector. To further break this down: 66% (3.6MT) of GHGs are from passenger vehicles, 16% are from commercial light vehicles (0.8MT), 15% from heavy vehicles and 3% from other vehicles. TransformTO aims to have 75% of school/work trips under 5Km to be walked, biked or by transit by 2030.

Creating a more transit friendly city is critical if Toronto is to reach these goals and the pathway to doing so can include dedicated transit corridors.

For these, and a multitude of other reasons, including pedestrian and cyclist safety, we urge the Executive Committee to take a wide angled view of tackling some of the biggest problems facing Toronto residents today so that we can have a stronger, healthier and more efficient city in the future.

Sincerely,

Susan Bakshi, Co-Chair
ClimateFast