
Infrastructure and Environment Committee

City of Toronto
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON

June 10, 2025

RE: IE22.2 - A Strategic Parking Framework for the City of Toronto

Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee Members,

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the City's proposed Strategic Parking Framework. It is encouraging to see the City's efforts to advance its climate objectives through its parking policies. We have included our recommendations on the Framework below.

First, we encourage the City to make its EV-related policy actions more action-oriented and near-term. For example, Policy Action A5.1 currently proposes to ***“consider opportunities to incentivize parking for EVs and low-emission vehicles at off-street City properties.”*** We recommend revising this to:

- **“Identify and recommend** opportunities to incentivize parking for EV and low-emission vehicles at off-street City properties”

We also recommend revising the timeline from 2-3 years to 1 year to reflect the urgency of meeting the City's climate targets. We believe this timeline is achievable given the existence of known, successful measures for incentivizing EV uptake via parking policy. For example, Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) and the Green Municipal fund developed [a resource](#) which identifies tools such as preferential parking fees and reserved parking as priority municipal actions to enable EV adoption in cities.

Furthermore, we support the City's efforts to manage parking demand more effectively and to re-invest revenues into sustainable mobility options. However, we believe equity safeguards should be in place when implementing fees at free public parking lots such as libraries and arenas. To mitigate disproportionate impacts on low-income residents who rely on these services, the City could explore time-based free parking, similar to what [Burlington](#) and [Mississauga](#) have imposed for City lots.

Lastly, we are encouraged to see the list of actions to facilitate the expansion of car sharing. We would urge the City to pursue bold actions designed to increase the accessibility and attractiveness of car sharing options relative to private vehicle ownership.

We hope these recommendations help strengthen the City's Strategic Parking Framework in ways that are more equitable, impactful, and aligned with the City's climate goals.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Klesmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" and last name "Klesmer" clearly distinguishable.

Ian Klesmer
Director of Clean Transportation, The Atmospheric Fund

About The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public, and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies, and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society.