

January 3, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
City of Toronto  
Metro Hall  
55 John Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5V 3C6

Committee Members,

TAF commends the City of Toronto for its leadership in developing Toronto's Electric Vehicle Strategy. ***We strongly support the Strategy, including the 10 broad actions which aim to accelerate the transition towards zero-emissions vehicles.***

Transportation accounts for 38% of Toronto's total carbon emissions, nearly 80% of which are attributed to personal vehicle use.<sup>1</sup> The actions proposed in Toronto's Electric Vehicle Strategy align with the transportation and carbon related targets outlined in TransformTO – namely the goal to transition 100% of transportation modes to low- or zero- carbon energy by 2050 – and the federal government's zero-emissions vehicles sales targets.

In October 2019, Toronto declared a climate emergency and City Council committed to a goal of net zero emissions before 2050. The Strategy will play an essential role in ensuring that Toronto meets these ambitious targets to limit global warming below 1.5°C. The actions outlined in the Strategy will help the City meet its carbon reduction targets, all while presenting economic and health benefits for people who live and work in the City of Toronto.

While we are pleased with the level of ambition proposed in the Strategy, we recognize that its implementation will require bold action over the next several years. Once adopted, the Strategy should provide a clear pathway for the immediate implementation and delivery of key actions, including the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Recognizing that implementation is critical to the success of any strategy, TAF urges the City to act more swiftly to develop the appropriate infrastructure, policies, and programs to support the effective and timely advancement of this Strategy.

In addition to beginning work on newly proposed actions, an immediate next step should be to make substantive progress towards those actions already in progress. For example, City Council approved the Downtown On-street EV Charging Station Pilot in 2012,<sup>2</sup> and while there has been some progress to date, none of the approved charging stations have been installed, nor has installation been

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<sup>1</sup> City of Toronto's Environment and Energy Division, 2019. TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable & Prosperous Toronto – Implementation Update 2017 and 2018. <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/98c7-TransformTO-Implementation-Update.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Toronto City Clerk, 2012. PW16.4 On-Street Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Pilot Project. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.PW16.4>

scheduled. In 2017, City Council approved the Residential On-street EV Charging Station Pilots;<sup>3</sup> similarly, there are no chargers installed as of yet and no estimated dates for installation. As a result of this slow progress, access to charging infrastructure remains a primary barrier to electric vehicle adoption in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

Toronto's recent climate emergency declaration signaled an immediate commitment to accelerated climate action. In light of this, the City must strengthen efforts to transition towards zero carbon transportation. To ensure that the City meets its interim and long-term targets, we strongly recommend that the City prioritize the effective implementation of this Strategy by executing the immediate and near-term actions as soon as feasibly possible. ***As a first step, we recommend that the City honour its declaration of a climate emergency by finally completing both of the previously approved EV Charging Station Pilots by the end of 2020.***

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing TAF's comments. TAF is pleased to have worked with the City to support the development of Toronto's Electric Vehicle Strategy and we look forward to continuing to work with the City to support the implementation of the Strategy.

Sincerely yours,



Bryan Purcell  
VP Policy & Programs, 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. Please note that the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto or other GTHA stakeholders. 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.*

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<sup>3</sup> Toronto City Clerk, 2017. PW24.7 Preparing Toronto for Electric Vehicles.  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PW24.7>