

Cheryl Smith
Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services

Copy: Kristen Pawelec, Kyle Murray

July 17, 2023

RE: Multi-year Budget Business Cases and Service Reviews

We are a group of concerned residents and organizations in London who have formed a group we are calling “London Collective Action” to further engage with local issues. In the spirit of the Strategic Priority Plan section “Well-Run City” and in particular relating to *“Increase transparency and accountability in decision making”* and *“improve the quality, inclusivity, and accessibility of public participation opportunities”* we would like to submit a number of priority items for consideration in your multi-budget preparations.

We understand the budget process, and that the official public participation portion would happen after the draft budget was presented at Council (likely mid December). However, this only allows the public to comment on what is in the draft budget and not what might be missing. We understand the challenges of having a long list of action items, and the reality of having limited funds. We offer this list of items we feel are a priority to making the city more equitable and also lead to economic and environmental advantage. These priorities were gathered from a collaborative effort from a variety of stakeholders. We hope that you take these ideas in the spirit in which they are offered – an indication of where we would like to see a focus for the future.

Recommendations for Priority – See Appendix for details

- Expand Subsidies for Public Transit
- Water Refill Stations

To further the spirit of community engagement, we hope that the City does undertake regular, meaningful engagement with Local Indigenous communities and organizations on matters of shared interest that would include many areas and not strictly water. Have they had a chance to submit their priority actions?

These priority recommendations are a compilation of suggestions made by a collaborative group. Not every person listed below may agree with every comment.

Laith Amad

Teresa Bell, Council of Canadians - Blue Communities

Mary Beth Blokker, London Greening Health Collaborative

Lella Blumer

Samuel Brewer

Lynn Brown, Council of Canadians

Judi Fisher, Greening Sacred Spaces / London Greening Health Collaborative

Norah Fraser, Council of Canadians

Mary Ann Hodge, Climate Action London

Nicole Karsch, London Environmental Network

Loretta Manzara, Sisters of St. Joseph

Bob Morrison, Climate Action London

Brendon Samuels

Luis Patricio, Pillar NonProfit Network

Sue Wilson, Sisters of St Joseph

Johann Wong, Climate Action London

Appendix - Multi-year budget recommendations

Short Description	Details	Areas of Focus - Strategic Priorities
Expand subsidies for public transit	<p>Expand subsidies for Transit. Affordable transportation is a key component of enhancing the quality of life for all Londoners. Traditional subsidies (or ride for free) have created separate programs for children under 12, income related test for individuals 18 years of age and older and subsidized fees for seniors but they are not consistently adequately funded.</p> <p>Accessible public transit helps to remove and prevent barriers that affect a person's ability to gain and maintain employment, and access health care, recreational, educational and social activities for themselves and their families.</p> <p>The desired outcome of many of the areas of focus in the Strategic Priorities report is to shift transportation choices away from motor vehicles to active transportation and provide equitable transportation choices. To truly break a continued cycle of car dependency, the City could implement a single program that provides 'ride for free' or deep discounts to all individuals under 18 (including secondary students), all new-comers to London and a total household on an income based criteria, adequately funded for the entirety of the 4 year budget cycle.</p>	<p>Reconciliation, Equity and Inclusion <u>Outcome 2.2</u>: Equity denied groups come to London and choose to stay in our community.</p> <p>Wellbeing and Safety: <u>Outcome 1.3</u>: Londoners have safe access to public spaces, services and supports that increase wellbeing and quality of life</p> <p>Mobility and Transportation: <u>Outcome 1.2</u> Increased access to sustainable mobility options <u>Outcome 1.6</u> Public transit that better meets the needs of our workforce.</p> <p>Climate Action and Sustainable Growth: <u>Outcome 2.1</u> London is on track to achieve emission reduction process by 2027: on the path to community milestone target 2030 and to be a net zero community by 2050"</p>
Water Refill Stations	<p>As extreme weather increases, and there are more heat alerts and hot weather, being able to stay hydrated is key to human health. Access to clean drinking water is a human right. Add more free water refill stations in London especially in areas</p>	<p>Wellbeing and Safety: Outcome 1.3: Londoners have safe access to public spaces, services and supports that increase wellbeing and quality of life.</p>

where homeless people need access and in winter when public fountains are turned off. Possibly using the decal system to indicate when a refill station is in a building (store, office) so less danger of vandalism. The decal system is used in other cities.

Climate Action and Sustainable Growth:
Outcome 2.1 London is on track to achieve emission reduction process by 2027: on the path to community milestone target 2030 and to be a net zero community by 2050"
Outcome 2.2 Improved community capacity and resilience to be ready for current and future changes to the climate and its impacts Outcome 3.2 Infrastructure is built maintained and secured to support future growth