

April 26, 2024

Dear Mayor Josh Morgan, Deputy Mayor Shawn Lewis, and Councillors Franke, Ferreira, Pelosa, Trosow, Pribil, Rahman, Lehman, McAlister, Cuddy, Stevenson, Hopkins, Van Meerbergen and Hillier,

London Greens favour the creation of sustainable cities, focused on strong, connected communities that permit residents to move quickly and easily to work, school and leisure activities. Public transportation forms a large part of that vision. We ask that the City partner with the Working Group for Car Free Day 2024 to cover the projected cost of \$17,000 to provide a Fare-free Day on its London Transit service, as proposed by Ward 11 Councillor Skylar Franke. This action aligns with the City's stated CEAP goals and offers tremendous opportunities for community engagement and education. We have seen the enormous success of London's Clean and Green activities in April, bringing out neighbourhoods, businesses, community groups etc to beautify the city through numerous clean ups. We believe that Car Free Day has the same potential to capture the imagination of London's citizens and get them excited about leaving their cars at home.

For approximately thirty years, International Car Free Day (CFD) has taken place on September 22nd, encouraging people to leave their cars at home. It highlights the health benefits of active transportation, the sense of connectedness to one's community, and the environmental gains through decreased pollution. This year, the City could use Car Free Day 2024 to promote its recent Mode Share Targets and get Londoners onto buses, many for the first time, thereby fulfilling one of its CEAP goals to "bring everyone along".

Two years ago, City Council unanimously approved a Climate Emergency Action Plan, meant to guide the City in its decision-making processes to ensure that policies, development plans, and other actions reflect the urgency of climate change and its negative impacts on our City and communities. Two of the stated goals include achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and "bringing everyone along". A key means by which to reduce GHG emissions is limiting personal vehicle use and encouraging alternate modes of transportation. At the moment, we still struggle to get Londoners onboard with leaving their cars at home and choosing active or public transportation. For many, the greatest hurdle is lack of familiarity with alternate options. Car Free Day is the ideal opportunity to introduce Londoners to London Transit.

One Fare-free Day, familiarizing Londoners with their local transit service, could see ridership increase in the future. The City could see a significant economic return on this \$17,000 investment, and even greater environmental and social returns.

Sincerely,

Carol Dyck and the London Greens