

From: Bob Morrison

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 5:52 PM

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Update 2021 - Zero Emission Bus Strategy & Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination

Dear Councillors and Mayor Holder,

The City of London declared a climate emergency in April 2019. I do wish to acknowledge and thank City staff for progress in developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan and a Climate Lens to apply to major projects however I feel that the City of London needs to move more rapidly in addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures.

I urge you to support and not delay a couple of budget amendments put forward.

P-10 Zero-Emission Bus Implementation Strategy

Other Canadian cities are already using battery electric buses and moving to an all electric fleet will take time. It is important to advance this pilot project quickly in order to ensure we can participate in consortium joint procurements and also ensure full participation in Federal funding opportunities. A delay in not proceeding quickly could potentially jeopardise these. It also sends an important message to residents and businesses that climate action needs to be taken now.

Additionally, it is important that London Transit obtains this important experience with battery electric buses prior to future fleet replacement needs. Not prioritizing and then buying diesel buses as replacement in the future would be inconsistent with the Climate Emergency declaration.

WWT-1 Capital program for Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination

It is important to re-invest savings from reduced energy costs at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant in a number of initiatives to eliminate sewage bypass and overflow events. Although there are planned projects for wastewater / rainwater separation these additional capital items can demonstrate our commitment and respect to our Indigenous neighbours downstream. It would also be consistent with the City of London declaring itself a Blue Community and recognising water and sanitation as a human right.

We are already experiencing more intense rainfall events that result in these bypass and overflow events. Recent climate change related events across Canada have clearly shown that climate change impacts are real and are happening quicker than previously forecasted. The current projected increase in the Wastewater budget is reasonable therefore I urge you to support the use of the cost savings for these capital projects.

Sincerely,

Bob Morrison
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