



December 3, 2025
Toronto City Hall
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2
Re: IE26.3 TransformTO Net Zero Strategy: Action Plan (2026-2030)

Dear Chair Councillor Fletcher and Committee members,

As outlined a few times in this report, active transportation is a foundational principle of any urban attempt to lower GHG. Even as we transition to EV vehicles and rapid transit as part of the climate change response, there will continue to be pedestrian requirements at the beginning and end of every journey.

The pedestrian is the heart of the city. If the city works for pedestrians, more people will walk or take public transit to destinations. People will visit the city from afar, boosting tourism. Citizens will have a stronger connection to their community and greater investment in its success.

Yet, it would seem on-the-ground actions and much of this Action Plan barely pay lip service to pedestrian infrastructure. We appreciate the mentions of expanding cycling infrastructure which generally improves the pedestrian experience but what about widening sidewalks, installing benches and water fountains, opening washrooms year-round? We note that this is an equity issue as many of the worst environments for pedestrians exist outside of the downtown core.

The daily pedestrian experience in Toronto currently involves countless indignities, some of which are mentioned below and all of which seem to be low-

hanging fruit that the city can correct without restriction from federal or provincial governments.

- Inconsistent, even inoperable, pedestrian buttons.
- Extensive missing sidewalks and new sidewalk installations that randomly end, especially outside of the downtown core.
- Paved trails that have no winter service yet could provide short cut pedestrian routes year-round and healthy outdoor leisure walking options for urban dwellers
- Dangerous exits from street cars (especially along Lakeshore Blvd West in South Etobicoke).
- Poor snow plowing prioritization of sidewalks and transit stops, especially outside of the downtown core.
- Dangerous, and inconvenient, pathways around small and large construction sites.
- Random obstacles for people with mobility issues.
- Poor tree canopy for summer shade, especially away from the downtown core

Climate change is producing more extreme weather, and Toronto must implement measures which mitigate the adverse effects on pedestrians. This is the only way active transportation can become a successful element of the climate action plan. It's a circle that must be closed.

Sincerely,

Lee Scott, Susan Bakshi, Michael Black Walk Toronto Steering Committee
info@walktoronto.ca

cc. Cllrs Colle, Chernos, Lin, Morley, Pasternak, Peruzza, Saxe