

Matthew Crack

Toronto is experiencing intensification - most significantly in the downtown core - as a result of provincial and municipal legislation. How should the City respond to this opportunity, in regards to:

a) Providing corresponding improvements to urban infrastructure, including parks, cultural and community facilities, and neighbourhood schools?

b) Increasing mobility options, specifically access to transit and cycling infrastructure?

c) Addressing the increasing challenge of affordability and opportunity within our growing city?

2) What is your vision and specific strategy for implementing that vision regarding the City's role in the promotion of public health with respect to the following:

a) The health of the natural environment, including air and water quality?

b) The health of citizens, including active transportation (walking and cycling) and access to healthy food options?

c) Integrating public health objectives into infrastructure investments and development approvals?

1a) There needs to be some accountability for the workers at the TCHC and the backlog of housing repairs is an absolute disaster that needs to be tended to. In 2013, it was estimated the backlog of repairs had risen to the cost of about \$750 million. In one year that could be eradicated through a tiny tax increase of 50 cents a day for every Torontonian.

There is green space spread around the downtown core and I would advocate for keeping that the way it is.

With the influx of concentration in the downtown core, we need to make sure there are plenty of schools, food options and community centers that can support the high density areas. We could have community centers located in the high rises.

b) As an avid cyclist, I support the construction of separated bike lanes. While I personally don't fear biking without them, many do, so we should prioritize those citizens because they are taking active steps to a healthier lifestyle, and city. The installment of bike lanes has also proven to speed up car traffic as the right lane does not have to slow down and avoid the bikers off to the right.

Transit options are also a main priority as it is impossible to fit any more cars downtown, so we need to spread affordable and practical transit options for every Torontonian – which also increases property values which I will address later.

How would we pay for this? One way to help alleviate cost is to tax drivers coming into the city taking the major highways into downtown everyday. By asking these drivers to pay roughly two tanks of gas each year of road tolls, the city can generate huge amounts of revenue to help give our transit system the much needed funds it deserves.

c) As stated in my previous answer, by having access to transit, property values increase. So by increasing transit options on the outskirts of the city, the value of homes there would rise, and hence the values downtown will fall to a much more even playing field due to more competitive living options.

So I believe investing in transit pays off many ways, including housing affordability.

I also promote investing in Centers for Social Innovation to attract small businesses and start up companies to choose Toronto to do their business. These types of buildings connect small businesses and create real relationships/partnerships. This increases the likelihood for the successful start ups to stay in Toronto and ideally hire young people trying to break into a career.

2a. As mayor, I would promote the idea of maximizing green space in our downtown core. I would look to grow our Green Roof Initiative and push for businesses to utilize their roofs to have green

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space. This reduces heat inside the building, slows rain and snow from entering the city pipes too quickly, and helps clean their air.

They could even have fruit and vegetable gardens specifically for the office space to increase access to healthy foods (less delivery trucks – see next answer).

For water quality, I would make replacing all the lead pipes in our city a priority as many homeowners are not aware that it is a potential problem for them if they are living in an area with a long history.

b) As stated in my previous answer, I would look to make healthy food options for the downtown core easier – by having gardens on roofs or in other green spaces downtown, we can eliminate the need for more transportation trucks delivering food as intensification continues downtown.

I support separated bike lanes. I myself am an avid biker and biking is only becoming increasingly popular. As a city we must accommodate our cyclists because they are taking active steps to a healthier lifestyle, and city with their lack of transportation pollutants.

I would also promote more pedestrian-only zones. We have had pilot projects with Open-Streets Toronto as well as for special events. I would look at having John street being the first street in Toronto to have that status permanently.

c)The Green Roof Initiative Toronto had implemented is a great start to getting businesses to go green. I don't think we should stop there, we should walk the walk as well and start to build gardens downtown. We should be leaders of change and show businesses how successful through a direct example. I would make sure we take active steps to having healthy food grown downtown and distributed accordingly.

Less traffic and healthy food options would increase worker productivity, so investing in projects like these will have major benefits for the individuals as well as companies.

As stated earlier, I would also push to eliminate all the lead water pipes in this city. This is a much a pressing infrastructure issue that needs to be dealt with quickly.