

Scott Wollin

Councillor Candidate in the Town of Georgina, Ward 3
York Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: This is an important topic, I believe that the zoning around single-family homes needs to be reevaluated in the GTA. I believe we have forgotten about the “downtown’s” of our small or smaller communities, we have forgotten the downtown’s for the ever expanding urban sprawl. We should be putting our energy and effort into rebuilding the downtown cores of our communities. Adjusting the zoning on single-family homes to allow for upgrades to possibly have a duplex or triplex is a very quick fix on how to increase the amount of housing that is available. I believe that we should have apartments or condos built above retail shops in walkable areas. This influx of these new residence would alleviate housing pressure and it would bolster the local economy encouraging spend to be done at a local level. The more money that we can keep local, the more the smaller communities will benefit from it.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: We should stop building highways they are the least efficient and most expensive per person travelled way of transportation that we have. We should be completely electrifying and building modern tram/trains that connect our local communities. Once upon a time Ontario was completely connected by rail or tram systems that we have forgotten about and torn up for the automobile. Now our entire society is dependent on owning a car to travel to work, to travel to the grocery store to travel to friends places, people even drive to go for walks.

Building highways just ensures that we are driving personal vehicles around for that much longer to do absolutely everything. The roads already exist, the existing roads should be maintained and our energy/effort should be put towards a much smarter more modern form of transportation that every other first world country takes advantage of.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: Being a member of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, I understand the importance of universal design from the get go. It only costs taxpayers more money to revamp or reevaluate projects that are already completed to add an additional features that should have already been implemented in the first place. I also believe having cheap efficient reliable and safe transportation around our communities is a fundamental necessity for small towns to prosper. I don't want to see any more farmland or forest be converted into the ever expanding single-family home subdivisions that we currently have.