



City of Hamilton

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 003

Date: March 25, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall (hybrid) (RM)
71 Main Street West

Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager - Climate Change Initiatives (905) 546-2424 ext. 6885

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A Five-Year Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton, 2024

City Staff Update Climate Change Advisory Committee

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Environmental Services
Public Works

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March 25, 2025



What is the Biodiversity Action Plan?

- Collaborative partnership across different organizations in Hamilton
- Action oriented for the next 5 years
- Responsive to threats (Climate change, invasive species, pollution, habitat fragmentation and alteration)
- Structured around 4 goals (Protect, Explore, Connect, Restore)
- Actions organized into 7 Key Priorities



History of the BAP Development

Timeframe	Outcome
2018	Ad hoc biodiversity working group with representatives from Hamilton's Conservation Organizations established
February 2020	Staff directed to investigate the feasibility of developing a BAP in collaboration with the Conservation Community
April 2021	Staff from the PED Department and the PW Department, partner with local conservation community organizations (lead group) to undertake a Biodiversity Action Plan
May 2023	Draft BAP received by council, and staff directed to engage with the public on the Draft BAP document
June 2024	Engagement, document review and editing to finalize BAP document, internal budget discussion. Presentation of Final BAP document to council.

Final Biodiversity Action Plan Document

Key Priority 4: Education and Stewardship

OBJECTIVE

Enhance public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and engage them in stewardship actions through partner agencies.



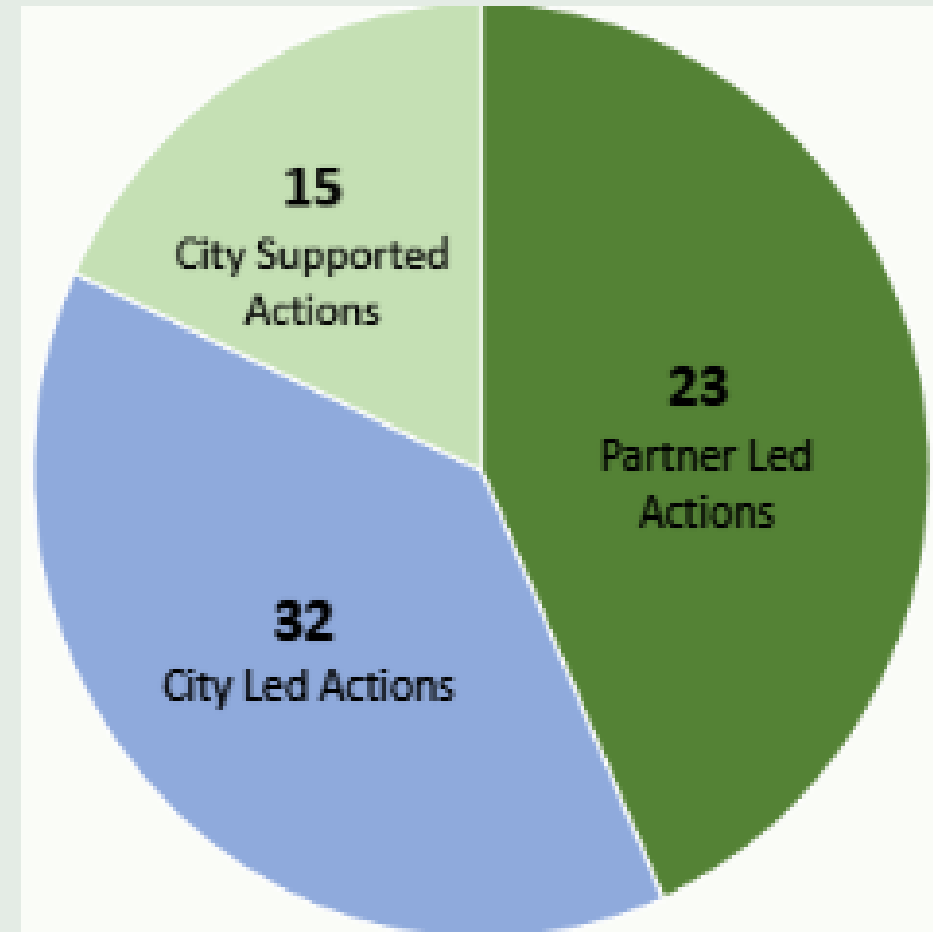
Goal	Action	Timeframe	Leading Partner(s)	Supporting Partner(s)
 Protect	4.1 Include consideration of biodiversity in the evaluation of submissions for the City of Hamilton's Urban Design and Architecture Awards.	Mid-term (1–3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Hamilton (Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division) 	
 Explore	4.2 Develop a community science program to educate and engage residents in collecting information about Hamilton's biodiversity and to learn more about previously inventoried areas.	Mid-term (1–3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAP Coordinator to facilitate Bay Area Restoration Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Venture Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
	4.3 Encourage increased use of natural burial in City of Hamilton cemeteries that will consider biodiversity through landscape design, species selection and maintenance approach.	Mid-term (1–3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Hamilton (Public Works – Environmental Services – Parks and Cemeteries) 	
	4.4 Develop tools that will support biodiversity friendly plantings on cemetery properties by cemetery patrons.	Mid-term (1–3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Hamilton (Public Works – Environmental Services – Parks and Cemeteries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
	4.5 Investigate opportunities with the local school boards to determine existing activities to manage invasive plants and enhance biodiversity, as well as opportunities for additional activities including curriculum components.	Long-term (3–5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAP Coordinator Bay Area Restoration Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

chart continues on next page

City of Hamilton Actions at a Glance



Implementation and Timeline – Planning Division

- The Planning Division is the Leading Partner for 9 Actions and the Supporting Partner for 14 Actions related to new and existing work programs. Some of the key actions are as follows:
 - Short term support for BAP partners to develop governance model and agreements for funding;
 - Development of a process for updating and maintaining the Natural Areas Inventory (NAI);
 - Preparation of a State of the Environment Report based on Natural Areas Inventory (NAI);
 - Review of wildlife corridors within the Natural Heritage System and investigation of best management practices;
 - Review of Natural Heritage policies in the Rural and Urban Hamilton Official Plan;
 - Development of Conservation Organization Working Group;
 - Inclusion of biodiversity in evaluation of Urban Design and Architecture Awards;
 - Development and Implementation Green Building Standards and Low Impact Development Guidelines; and,
 - Initiation of Ecosystems Services Study to explain benefits of natural assets in urban and rural areas.
- One FTE position was requested and approved in the 2025 budget to assist with these actions.

Implementation and Timeline - Public Works

- 19 Actions where Public Works is the Leading Partner
 - 4 Actions in Progress with Environmental Services' sections as the lead
 - Future Parks and Landscape Architectural Services Actions will be part of workplan for new staff
 - 4 FTEs were requested and approved in 2025 budget
 - 1 Completed Action for Hamilton Water
 - Watershed Action Plan
 - Working with Office of Climate Change Initiatives in Low-Impact Development planning
 - Working with CityLabs to investigate Green Infrastructure
- PW Actions align with other Environmental Strategies & Projects
 - Clean & Green Hamilton
 - Natural Areas Inventory
 - Natural Asset Management Plans
 - Urban Forest Strategy
 - Watershed Action Plan

Biodiversity Action Plan – Next Steps

- 1) Establish Governance Model
- 2) Development of TOR for Management and Steering Committees
- 3) Implementation of BAP Management/Steering Committee
- 4) Continue Facilitating Conversations Between Agencies
- 5) Development of a Communications Strategy
- 6) Data Collection and Sharing Program
- 7) BAP Coordinator Role
- 8) BAP Progress Report to Council (June 2025)

Community Level Actions



Explore

Actions

- Share information from the BAP with friends, family, co-workers and community groups.
- Follow the BAP partners on social media to learn about opportunities to get involved in volunteer opportunities or local events.
- Support existing efforts to promote and enhance biodiversity by participating in learning events, workshops, campaigns and stewardship initiatives.
- Engage with community science initiatives like iNaturalist and eBird to record the species you see around Hamilton.
- Use iNaturalist to share where you see wildlife, alive or deceased, at road crossings.
- Learn how to identify Hamilton's invasive species and stop their spread. Learn how to manage and dispose of invasive species at home through resources such as the Ontario Invasive Plant Council and their "Grow Me Instead" guide.
- Learn about and implement techniques like a rain garden or rain barrel to manage stormwater at home.



Connect

Actions

- Participate in municipal planning approvals processes to understand how natural areas are being protected in decision-making.
- Get in touch with your Councillor to let them know what your concerns are about biodiversity and natural spaces in your community.



Restore

Actions

- Provide habitat for nature by planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to enhance biodiversity on your property. In agricultural areas, use agricultural best management practices to improve water quality and wildlife habitats.
- Participate in invasive species management activities through volunteer events hosted by BAP partners.
- Stop the spread of invasive species: clean boots and equipment regularly, particularly between visits to different natural areas.
- Protect drinking water by decommissioning abandoned water wells and making sure that your well and septic are upgraded to current standards and in good working condition.
- Participate in local recycling, waste reduction, composting and hazardous waste removal programs to reduce litter and pollution.



Protect

Actions

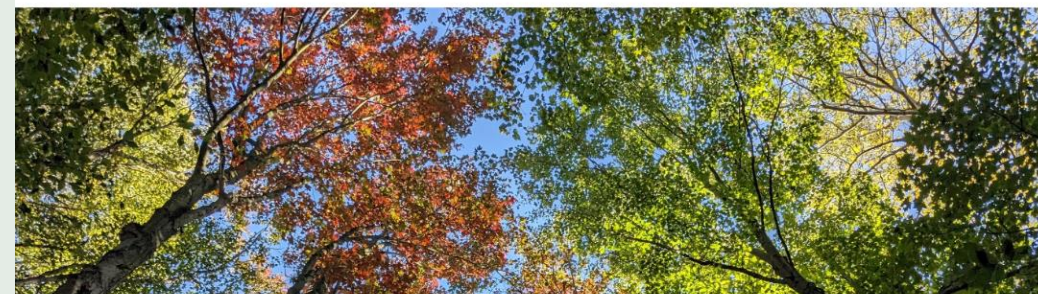
- Encourage your workplace to donate time or funds towards local biodiversity enhancement efforts.
- Do not release live aquatic plants and animals, including live bait, into rivers, streams and lakes.

Upcoming Events

- **Biodiversity in Hamilton Open Houses**
 - March 26, 6-8pm, Westfield Heritage Village
 - April 2, 6-8pm, Virtual (Zoom) - Registration Required
- **Environmentalist of the Year Awards**
 - April 4, 6-9pm, McMaster University - Registration Required
- **Design Your Native Landscape Workshop**
 - \$45 fee, April 5, 9am-4pm, Flamborough Baptist Church
- **Importance of Small Wetlands in Recovery of At-Risk Species**
 - April 14, 7:30-9pm, The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton

Biodiversity in Hamilton

Open Houses



Come learn about Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan, Natural Areas Inventory (NAI), Watershed Action Plan, ongoing projects supporting biodiversity, resources for landowners, and more!

Conclusion

- Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan is commitment across organizations to protect, restore, connect and explore Hamilton's biodiversity
- Not a static plan, and will be revisited in 5 years
- A celebration of collaboration!



Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee Building Working Group

Meeting Notes from March 18th Meeting from 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Attendees: Frank Lenarduzzi, Gaby Kalapos, Shelley Rempel, Su Heenan, Maryluz Velasco, Trevor Imhoff, Cathrin Winkelman

Green Development Standards follow up and any next steps resulting from Wednesday March 12th meeting.

- [Draft GDS Memo form Planning that was background for the March 12th Meeting](#)
- [Meeting Notes Summary form March 12th meeting](#)
- Planning will be submitting their recommendations to go to the planning Committee on April 29th
- There has been ongoing discussions between the Hamilton CCAC and its working groups with Planning
- It is anticipated that the Hamilton CCAC will be provided with a draft of the staff report and their recommendations prior to it being publicly posted.
- There is the ability for the Buildings Working Group to be able to provide a delegation to the Planning Committee meeting if a motion is voted on at the upcoming Hamilton CCAC meeting taking place on March 25th
- Draft Motion: That the Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee approve a committee delegate from the Buildings and/or Technical and Governance working groups to provide a delegation to the April 29th planning committee Green Development Standards agenda item on feedback relating to the inclusion of Hamilton CCAC recommendations into the proposed recommended Hamilton GDS.
- There was an additional draft motion that was considered. Is there presently a council mandate to Hamilton Community Enterprise to align its operations with the City of Hamilton's climate change commitments and GHG reduction targets? If not, that would be an important effort to advance to ensure alignment and accountability as HCE is owned by the City of Hamilton. Especially if connection to the HCE network is being offered as an alternate compliance for the Hamilton GDS.
- Therefore, if there isn't already a mandate already in place for HCE: Possible motion: That the Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee recommend that Hamilton City Council (or if there is a committee that would be more appropriate for this motion to go to) direct Hamilton Community Enterprises to align its business planning with Hamilton's GHG reduction targets and timeline and develop a Possible Roadmaps for Decarbonization Plan.

Additional representatives from the Hamilton community that would be good to engage in this working (working groups are not limited to committee members and are meant to build a larger stakeholder base to support the City's building climate actions).

- It would be good to include bay Area Climate Change Collaborative. Gaby will send them an invite.
 - Buildings working group and Hamilton CCAC members are asked to inform Gaby of additional suggestions for representatives from the Hamilton community that would be good to include in the Buildings Working group.
-

City of Hamilton Corporate Buildings Net Zero Roadmap and Implementation Plan

- The Buildings Working Group would like to ask that Hamilton corporate facility team join an upcoming Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting to present on their net zero planning work undertaken thus far, key lessons learned on requirements that need to be in place to enable implementation, implementation opportunities and challenges and what supports/help the corporate facility team think the Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee could play in helping to address implementation challenges.
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BetterHomes Hamilton status

- [About the BetterHomes Hamilton Program](#)
- [Better Homes Hamilton Update](#)
- There have been some delays in the timeline for the Betterhomes program due to the cyber security event, and some privacy and platform issues encountered.
- There is \$ 1 million budgeted for this first phase with about 50 residents being brought into the program with a maximum loan of 20K per property.
- Presently working to ensure all required documentation/quotes are uploaded onto Betterhomes platform.

Community Engagement and Climate Justice Working Group

DATE: Wednesday March 5, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm

LOCATION: TEAMS

ATTENDEES:	Shelley Rempel, Su Heenan, Tran Nguyen
REGRETS:	Mary Ellen Scanlon, Giuliana Casimirri, Jeff Harti, Adan Amer, Jordyn Boyer, Tristan MacLaurin, Aditya Khetan Transportation Working Group - Ian Borsuk, Bayode Akomolafe, Gaby Kalapos, Frank Lenarduzzi, Zach Kuszczak
GUEST(S):	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
1.	Agenda Review/Minutes	All		
2.	Agenda Item #2	Su Heenan	<p>The Transportation Working Group was invited to discuss LRT governance models from a Climate Justice perspective.</p> <p>Written feedback should be sent to me and Shelley by March 8th if they wish to contribute to the document</p>	If Transportation working group sends written feedback, Su will compile feedback and submit it to Beatrice by March 10th

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
3.	Agenda Item #3	Su Heenan Shelley Rempel	-briefly reviewed new mandate, terms of reference, objectives -in order to support the work of OCCI and HCAS, in alignment with the terms of reference for the Climate Change Advisory Committee, document sent to OCCI asking for tasks/timelines	Su, Shelley, and Tran in agreement
4.	Agenda Item #4	Su Heenan Shelley Rempel	-Reviewed LRT governance model documents and supporting information -Tran, Shelley, and Su reviewed all four governance models, providing feedback in a google document	Shelley and Su will review the document for submission to Beatrice. They will accept written submissions from all members of the Community Engagement and Climate Justice Working Group, as well as the Transportation Working Group, until March 8th. Feedback will be submitted to Beatrice by March 10th
5.	Agenda Item #5	Su Heenan Shelley Rempel	-Feedback for Climate Change Reserve Funding due March 10th -discussion around OCCI sharing priority deadlines and documents further in advance -will try to arrange a meeting over weekend	Su to ask all of CCAC if they would like to meet over the weekend to compile feedback for OCCI on Climate Change Reserve Funding
6.	Agenda Item #6			

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
7.	Agenda Item #7			
8.	Other Items:			
.	Adjourn	All		
Next Meeting Dates				
<i>Urgent weekend meeting request to be made</i>				

Community Engagement and Climate Justice Working Group
 March 5th, 2025
 Feedback provided by: Su Heenan, Shelley Rempel, Tran Nguyen

Subject: Recruiting Additional LRT Sub-Committee Advisors in Order to Facilitate Consideration of Climate Justice

Review of the four proposed governance options for the recruitment of additional LRT Sub-Committee Advisors:

Option 1: Recruit Additional non-voting Community Advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee

- Recruitment of Non-Voting Community Advisors is limited to 6. It is important to note that there are 10 Frontline Communities listed, and the diversity within these communities cannot be sufficiently represented by only 6 individuals.
 - Increasing the cap to 10 advisors would allow for better representation and coverage of the diverse Frontline Communities
 - No evidence that a cap of 6 advisors is “best practice” for engagement.
 - This forum can be intimidating and a potential barrier to participation from persons who haven’t had experience serving on committees or boards, and therefore not reflective of the diversity that is needed on the LRT Sub-Committee
 - These representatives do not have real power.
 - Non-voting status might affect their level of engagement.
 - Compensate non-voting members.

Option 2: Establish a Working Group

- While working groups can meet at their convenience, their effectiveness depends on members’ commitment. Active scheduling and engagement strategies are necessary to maintain high participation levels.
- The success of a working group in retaining members will depend on the perceived impact of their work and the support provided to them.
- Working groups have a step-removed influence since they report to the LRT Subcommittee. However, well-documented reports and recommendations can still significantly impact decisions.
- Working groups often meet regularly, which requires advisors to commit a significant amount of time to attend these meetings.

- Advisors are often responsible for drafting reports, summarizing discussions, and documenting decisions. This administrative work can be extensive.
- Working groups may require advisors to conduct research on specific topics, analyze data, and develop recommendations. This research can be time-consuming and demands a high level of expertise.
- Multiple workgroups might be needed to address various focus areas within the LRT project, such as environmental impact, community engagement, and technical aspects. Each group would require specialized knowledge and expertise.
- Having multiple workgroups means that advisors with expertise in multiple areas might be involved in several groups simultaneously, leading to a higher overall workload.
- The barriers to participation and high workload might lead to low levels of diversity representation, and high levels of burnout.
- Compensate non-voting members.

Option 3: Recruit additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to LRT Sub-Committee and establish Working Group in future if deemed necessary

- Non-voting advisors can participate actively, but their engagement might be influenced by their non-voting status.
- While non-voting advisors cannot directly influence votes, their input can still significantly impact discussions and decisions. The success of this option depends on how well their contributions are valued and integrated into the decision-making process.
- This option supports procedural equity by including diverse voices in the advisory process. It aligns well with the Climate Justice Framework, ensuring that climate justice considerations are integrated into LRT decisions.
- If needed, a working group can be established in the future based on the effectiveness and feedback from the non-voting advisors.
- Questions: Is there flexibility to the number of advisors as 6 advisors is not enough to capture the diversity in the community for an LRT sub-committee
- Compensate non-voting members.

Option 4: Strike a Task Force

- Representation of frontline communities and marginalized groups in the advisory process
- Establishing a Task Force can effectively enhance inclusivity by involving representatives from frontline communities and marginalized groups. This option ensures that diverse voices are formally included in the discussions.
- Task Forces typically have a strong influence on decision-making processes. Their structured approach and formal reporting mechanisms ensure that their input is considered in the LRT Sub-Committee's decisions.

- Alignment of LRT Sub-Committee actions with the Climate Justice Framework, ensuring that climate justice considerations are systematically integrated into LRT decisions.
- The formal nature of a Task Force can enhance community trust and support. Regularly seeking and addressing community feedback can further strengthen this relationship.
- Compensate non-voting members

We like this option, and suggest the following to create a task force that would enhance consideration of climate justice:

- Ensure that Task Force meetings are scheduled at various times, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate community members who may have daytime commitments.
- Make it more accessible for new advisors by simplifying the application process and providing clear, easy-to-understand guidelines for participation.
- Offer resources and support for volunteer members, such as training and logistical support for attending meetings.
- Actively engage with frontline organizations and residents to ensure diverse representation on the Task Force. This could involve targeted outreach efforts and partnerships with community groups.
- In addition to formal Task Force meetings, establish informal spaces (e.g., community forums or workshops) where community members can discuss issues and provide input in a more relaxed setting.
- Provide behind-the-scenes information to the community to enhance transparency and build trust.
- Strive to get input and participation at the neighborhood level to ensure grassroots perspectives are included.

Climate Change Advisory Committee Working Group - NbS

DATE: March 19, 2025

LOCATION: Online Google Meet Link

ATTENDEES:	Su Heenan, Mary Ellen Scanlon, Giuliana Casimirri
REGRETS:	
GUEST(S):	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
1.	Agenda Review/Minutes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Meant for high-level major discussion points</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Meant for key decisions and action items moving forward</i>
2.	Agenda Item #2: Review UFS Implementation Presentation		<p>Follow up Questions/ Items to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will need more clarity on the 40% canopy cover commitment for municipal parks - how will this be operationalized? Is this commitment the same as the GBS Tier 2 target (Item# EB2.6 in GBS which states “Plant trees to achieve a 40% tree canopy cover for the site, excluding the building footprint.”) Where did the 50,000 tree target come from? What data was used to develop this target? Additionally, can the UFS 40% canopy cover goal be added as a measurable climate action strategy goal moving forward? 	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The city's commitment to planting 50,000 trees has been turned into 20,000 trees on public property - with the remaining 30,000 trees needing to come from other partners, (ie. CA's, community groups etc. and on other lands that are private property). Why has CoH made this new lower 20,000 tree planting commitment? 5. For tracking tree planting target - the numbers of saplings provided at the water festival should not be included, as these are very unlikely to be properly planted. We should only be tracking trees that are monitored and receive aftercare as contributing to this target. 6. For the Tree Planting Strategy (Equity Lens) work underway and expected in 2025, what is the methodology /data sets to be used for prioritization? It is unclear if this strategy will consider health indicators, heat data, neighbourhood canopy cover distribution etc. 7. An Urban Forest Working Group (Community-based) was referenced in the presentation - is this group underway? 8. Has the CoH considered facilitating strategic tree planting on City Housing Hamilton properties? What is the definition of public land that CoH will plant on? What other opportunities exist to plant trees with a more targeted approach on other municipal properties including golf courses, recreation centers, etc. 	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
			<p>9. What criteria are used to select the species available on the street tree planting list? Can we prioritize native tree species, and increase the diversity of native trees offered? Are native sugar, silver and red maples approved for street tree planting (for several years no maples of any kind were available for street tree planting due to the high proportion of Norway Maples in tree inventories and of the 10-20-30 Arboriculture Rule).</p> <p>10. Additional climate action strategy goals/priorities should be added which support NbS solutions esp. those related to adaptation and reducing urban heat island and improving wellbeing.</p> <p>11. Has there been an effort by the CoH to collate NbS-related policy commitments, actions, targets and metrics to date that are listed in CoH various policy documents into a spreadsheet /action plan?</p> <p>12. Funding regular, active management of natural areas in Hamilton to support native biodiversity and forest health was identified as an action to be reviewed for feasibility, effectiveness and cost and coordinated with Biodiversity Action Plan in the 2023 UFS Implementation Update - Has this project been considered to be brought forward to reserve funding from the Climate Change Action Reserve? If not, why not, and when will funding for this be included in the CoH</p>	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
			budget?	
3.	Agenda Item #3: Actioning Gaps Identified		TBD: requires responses to questions above	
4.	Agenda Item #4: Other Implementation Updates /Information Required		What are Watershed Action Plan priority items for the next 3 years? Who at CoH is currently leading community gardens and supporting local food approaches?	
5.	Agenda Item #5			
6.	Agenda Item #6			
7.	Agenda Item #7			
8.	Other Items:			
	Adjourn	All		

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
Next Meeting Dates				
TBD				

Climate Change Advisory Committee Working Group - TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP

DATE: March 3 2025

LOCATION: VIRTUAL

ATTENDEES:	Ian, Su, Frank, Zach
REGRETS:	
GUEST(S):	

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
1.	Agenda Review/Minutes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA - Inaugural meeting 	
2.	Agenda Item #2	All	Discussion around working group interests and goals. Agreement around statement: "The CCAC Transportation Working Group is in a unique position where we can provide a high level analysis of City of Hamilton transportation policies and actions and provide an objective evaluation of the overall direction the city is taking."	Agreement on direction.
3.	Agenda Item #3	All	Discussion around how to achieve high level analysis - brainstorming around who to talk to and about what.	A list of key individuals, city departments, and outside organizations was put together with some consideration to priority.

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
4.	Agenda Item #4			
5.	Agenda Item #5			
6.	Agenda Item #6			
7.	Agenda Item #7			
8.	Other Items:			
.	Adjourn	All		

No.	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Description/Discussion	Decision(s) & Actions
Next Meeting Dates				
<i>APRIL 2025 - TBD</i>				