

From: Claud Spadafora <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 12:37 PM

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Subject: Concerns about General Issues Committee (Budget) on Friday February 06 at 930am

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Hello,

My name is Claud Spadafora, I live in Ward 1. I'm emailing to express my worries around the discussions that happened in the budget meeting on January 29. Ideas around "right-sizing" the OCCI Office of Climate Change Initiatives, and that there should be less investment in cycling infrastructure, deeply worry me. I am hoping you will consider my points in advance of the General Issues Committee (Budget) on Friday, February 06, 2026.

In terms of cycling infrastructure, perfect is the enemy of good, and Councillor Pauls' idea that an imperfectly cleared lane is reason enough to question the presence of the bike lane makes it clear that she is out of touch with the 32,000 active members of the hamilton bike share program. I am a daily cyclist who uses hamilton bike share, and bike lanes, to get to work among other things. Biking instead of walking saves me 50 minutes of time, and 50 minutes of suffering in below zero weather. Biking instead of taking the bus saves me 200 dollars a month-- Hamilton Bike Share costs \$22 per month, and taking a bus twice a day costs \$231 per month. In terms of "fumes", walking doesn't save me from those, and becoming a daily driver would add to it. If we're worried about fumes, I think it's fair to say that destroying cycling infrastructure is a step in the wrong direction.

The cost of bike lanes and barriers is extremely low when compared with its positive impact on constituents wallets, physical and mental health, and the environment we all share. Councillors representing those from car-centric, dispersed neighbourhoods do not understand the life changing impact of bike infrastructure, especially on lower income communities. Biking is one of the greatest sources of autonomy in my life, and I know that's true of thousands of others based on the reports and numbers you all have access to.

In terms of the Office of Climate Change, I find it troubling that we would consider cuts to this when the climate disaster is worse than its ever been. With the provincial government trying to disrupt our conservation programs and developers constantly appealing to destroy more greenbelt, we are barrelling towards climate catastrophe. If the realities of that are not compelling, we should at least consider that unmitigated climate change is also very expensive, and prevention is cheaper. If we are to believe that the police services need more money from the budget to be proactive, as Chief Bergen said, then we should act upon the fact that the same is true of our protecting our environment.

I whole-heartedly support climate action, protecting Hamilton's environment, expanding cycling and transit, complete streets, and the biodiversity action plan. I would strongly urge councillors to vote against any motions that propose cuts to these future-proofing, community enriching programs.

Sincerely,

Claud Spadafora