

From: Seth Floyd [REDACTED] >

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:38 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Cooper, Rob <Rob.Cooper@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>

Subject: General Issues - Budget committee

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello Councillors,

As with previous emails, I am a **Resident of Ward 7, with my Councillor being Esther Pauls.**

I am writing today to express concern with the current commentary of the budget meetings so far.

Background - Biking

To my understanding, this current Hamilton City Council approved the Accelerated Active Transportation Implementation Plan in 2024, whereby Council directed staff to investigate a faster implementation of the Cycling Master Plan. Yet, Ward 5 Cllr Francis has already tabled a motion proposing massive cuts to the Cycling Master Plan. It was already approved under the current councils watch; therefore, why is the current council wasting time, resources, and therefore taxpayer dollars over issues that were already decided by this same council in this same term.

I do not personally even feel that strongly about the Cycling Master Plan (though I support it). What does not make sense to me is cutting programs that City Council already approved. This is the very waste and lack of efficiency Hamiltonian's regularly point to. Not to mention, this specific cut discussion is coming at a time where there is very little opportunity for public input, if any at all.

Further regards to biking:

I would specifically like to specifically touch base on some of the comments by my councillor. She herself is an avid cyclist, so I would have assumed she would be an advocate for bike lanes and bike safety, and would have understanding the safe bike infrastructure needs to bike use; said another way, of course there will be less cyclists out when there is an absence of safe bike lanes to do so? Cllr. Pauls herself said that biking downtown she "puts her life in her own hands". Improving biking infrastructure is quite literally intended to fix that.

Another comment, echoed by Cllr. Cooper I believe, was questioning why people would want to "bike around car fumes". My question to these councillors - do you think individuals, simply trying to travel to work or the store, *want* to be inhaling fumes? Or did you pause to consider that perhaps the bike lanes are not strictly for their leisure, but for their *livelihood*.

Another critique was "winter biking". But again the basis of the issue was that the bike lanes are not clear. Therefore, it sounds like the issue is not the bike lanes but the snow clearing -- therefore, perhaps the critique should be redirected. Multiple COUNTRIES in Europe which experience similar winter conditions have much better established (and frequently used) bike networks, so winter is no excuse.

Lastly, Cllr. Pauls claimed her biggest critique was the "location" of bike lanes. Again, this fails to acknowledge that bike lanes may be a NEED to get to employment, as they may not be able to afford a car. Furthermore, it was crudely assumed that all downtown bike lanes are used for "travelling short distances which you can just walk or even take the bus". I would question how it was determined that these bike lanes are used exclusively for short distances. However, I would like to key in on another detail here -- Cllr. Esther Pauls suggested taking the bus as an alternative. Therefore, I would hope that she would then suggest the "81M allocated to accelerating the cycling plan" be allocated to transit instead

Office of Climate Change Initiatives / Climate Change Reserves

The overall city budget is \$1.33B. Many have pointed out that, for example, the stoney creek ice removal saving 160k is negligible compared to the overall budget (side: which I agree, demand for ice time has always been high and will only increase, the savings were so misaligned with the value that the arena provides to the community, as all the hockey arenas do; thankfully I believe the Mayor reversed this). The Climate Change Reserve (CCR) is similar: the cost is negligible (the 2.5M annual is 0.018% of the total budget) yet the service provided is much higher value than the cost. The CCR was used in 2025 to support resources provided by the Hamilton Public Library, retrofit CityHousing homes, and tree plantings. The library is starting to struggle with funding, housing and homelessness has been an ongoing crisis for years, and trees planting are an essential part of community building (carbon offsetting, shading and heat regulation, etc.). Defunding the reserve to save 0.018% on the budget is misguided; it achieves very little reducing taxes (estimates are around 50 cents per month or 10\$ per year saved on property taxes) yet has a much more tangible impact on city services. There is also zero plan that I am aware to

increase this reserve beyond 2.5M per year, and therefore it will only continue to be less and less of a contributor to the total budget.

Final Statement

I specifically emphasized in the first line the identity of my councillor, since Cllr. Pauls loves to reference the emails she is receiving to support her views, as she did numerous times during the January 29, 2026 GIC budget meeting. Therefore Cllr Pauls, as I am one of the "people emailing you" (as me and members of my household are YOUR constituents), I expect you to equally please raise to attention this email (and others like it) that

DO SUPPORT FUNDING BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES.

You claim that people are emailing that they don't understand why we are putting so much money towards these things. I would hope that in the future you are more vocal about the emails you receive about your constituents not understanding why we are putting so much money towards the police budget without any resistance, yet the maximum effort is put towards striking down any initiative that actually looks to better the city for the future (improving housing, social services, paramedicine, healthcare, the list goes on...).

Best regards,

Seth