

From: Richard Carter [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:34 AM

To: Cooper, Rob <Rob.Cooper@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: 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>; 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: February 6 budget discussion - please add to agenda

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Elected representatives,

I am a Ward 8 resident represented by Councillor Rob Cooper and I write in support of Climate office funding and staffing and continued pace of cycle infrastructure implementation.

I'd also point out that speeches about lowering taxes should not contrast with votes to increase them.

Councillor Cooper, you

-Voted against VUT which will add many millions to Hamilton's affordable housing fund

-Voted against the Safe Apartment bylaw that would protect tenants

-Voted against charging cost recovery fees for secondary plans to sprawl developers which means taxpayers will now pay those fees

Now I hear you

1. [Questioning](#) bike lane implementation and asking why cyclists would even want to bike downtown while sucking up fumes? Look around downtown Councillor Cooper and you'll see people travelling through the city in a manner that best works for them - some of them on bikes, even in the winter. You may drive your personal vehicle back to comfy Ward 8 but not everyone has that luxury.

As Ward 8 residents, my family and I fully support keeping the Accelerated Cycling Master Plan in place, support continued installation of protected cycle paths on our roads, and we are more than

willing to pay for it through our taxes. The more commuters on bikes, the less car congestion, the less fumes we'll all be sucking up. Furthermore, adding cycling infrastructure is a fraction of the cost of car infrastructure.

I also hear my Councillor

2. [Opining](#) on the climate emergency, falsely stating that the Climate office has not defined the emergency, and claiming there is no transparency with respect to our climate plan. Curious, since you've said yourself in prior meetings that you'd already met with the director of the climate office. Surely you learned something in that meeting? For clarity you could just google "Hamilton Climate" and you won't fail to discover [a webpage](#) full of links to reports dating back several years. So I'll make this clear too, **As Ward 8 residents my family and I fully support continued climate action, full funding of the Climate Office, preservation of their reserve funding and we call for an INCREASE in their staffing levels and EXPANSION of their portfolio. And we're happy to pay for it all through our taxes.**

Finally, I do not support the motion from Councillor Matt Francis to defer funding for cycling infrastructure over the Red Hill. The RHV is a barrier and safe cycling routes should be implemented over the parkway.

We are fortunate to live in a city of people whose sentiments run deeper than a simple trope: 'keep my taxes low!!' Stoking a rage narrative over taxes is transparent and reveals clear motives.

Sincerely,

Richard Carter

Ward 8