

CITYAGE

EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

CITYAGE TORONTO:

CANADA'S NEXT 10 MILLION

TORONTO | APRIL 26, 2023

PRESENTED BY:



SNC • LAVALIN

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:



EVENT SUMMARY

Midway through Toronto's extended mayoral election campaign, and recognizing the urgency of addressing the challenges associated with Canada's rapid population growth, **CityAge Toronto: The Next 10 Million** convened a gathering of exceptional thought leaders and industry experts.

Against the vibrant backdrop of Canada's largest metropolitan region, roughly 150 attendees tackled this fundamental question: **How can Canada build better cities to accommodate its rapidly expanding population while maintaining urban livability?**

The resounding success of CityAge Toronto demonstrated the remarkable power of collaborative problem-solving and affirmed our shared dedication to building resilient and prosperous cities for all.

"We have to think about a greener and more sustainable way of moving people around. That means we have to rely on the EV rather than normal cars. And what I'm thinking is that urban design is the major driver for that."



SPEAKERS INCLUDED



BEN ALMOND

CEO, Engineering Services Canada,
SNC Lavalin



GRAHAM CARR

President & Vice-Chancellor, Concordia
University



KEALY DEDMAN

Commissioner, Public Works, Regional
Municipality of Peel



HEATHER GREY-WOLF

Chief Development Officer,
Infrastructure Ontario



EMMA JARRATT

Executive Editor, Electric Autonomy
Canada



COLIN LYNCH

Managing Director & Head of Global Real
Estate Investments, TD Asset Management



LAURA MILLER

Head of Public Policy and
Communications, Canada, Uber



MICHAEL NORTON

Chief Development Officer, Metrolinx



MARK SALSBERG

Co-Principal, WGD Consulting and Chair,
TRACCS Transit & Rail Association



SHOSHANNA SAXE

Associate Professor, University
of Toronto



ILSE TREURNICHT

Managing Partner, TwinRiver Capital



LESLIE WOO

CEO, CivicAction



RAMTIN ATTAR

CEO & Co-Founder, Promise
Robotics



EHREN CORY

CEO, Canada Infrastructure Bank



DEREK GORING

Executive Vice President, Development,
Northcrest Developments



PETER HASS

Associate Partner, Maverix Private
Equity



RICK LEARY

CEO, Toronto Transit Commission



STUART MCLAREN

Global Director of Net Zero Innovation, SNC
Lavalin



CATHERINE MURRAY

Event MC, Former BNN journalist



JAMES PERTTULA

Director, Transit and Transportation
Planning, City of Toronto



JAG SHARMA

President and Chief Executive Officer,
Toronto Community Housing



LOUIS TREMBLAY

President & CEO, Flo



HEILI TOOME

Chief Marketing Officer, SHIFT Transit

CITYAGE TORONTO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CityAge went beyond traditional presentations and panels by hosting engaging breakout sessions, conducted under the Chatham House Rule, to foster in-depth conversations and generate a comprehensive list of priorities specifically tailored to Toronto.

By encouraging group participation and networking, the breakout session ensured that all attendees had their voice heard and contributed to a collaborative discussion.



“Smart and depersonalized data don’t have to be mutually exclusive.”

Attendees deliberated upon the following questions during the CityAge Breakout Sessions:

ELECTRIFICATION:

What steps should the next Mayor undertake to enhance the expansion of EV networks, strike a balance between gas stations and EV stations, and potentially transition all public transit to electric power in Toronto?

INFRASTRUCTURE:

What should be the next Mayor’s priority among reimagining the Gardiner Expressway and other major roadways, striking a balance between data utilization and privacy for a “smart” city, and implementing inclusive measures for Toronto, North America’s most multicultural city, considering the significant upcoming infrastructure investments?

HOUSING:

In terms of housing, what innovative approaches should Toronto adopt and showcase globally, specifically focusing on affordability, accessible and inclusive housing, and the potential retrofitting of commercial real estate?

DECARBONIZATION:

What is the significance of Toronto’s leadership in transitioning towards a Net-Zero future, and how can the city play a pivotal role both locally and globally by reducing the reliance on ICE vehicles, promoting active transportation options like walking and cycling, and implementing measures to limit energy consumption in housing and businesses?

TORONTO PRIORITIES

CityAge Toronto attendees outlined the following top 10 priorities to tackle issues arising from Toronto’s historic growth rate.

1. SUPPORT THE “MISSING MIDDLE” IN HOUSING:

Encourage the development of diverse, multi-unit dwellings to bridge the gap between single-family homes and high-rise condos, addressing the housing needs of a rapidly growing population.

2. MORE ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY IN HOUSING:

Create affordable, accessible, and inclusive housing solutions that reflect Toronto’s multicultural identity and empower citizens through equitable home ownership opportunities.

3. TRANSFORM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE:

Repurpose underutilized commercial properties into affordable residential units, contributing to urban revitalization and addressing housing scarcity in a rapidly expanding city.

4. PHASE OUT ICE VEHICLES:

Champion electrification and develop innovative transit solutions to reduce emissions, promote sustainable living, and encourage walking, cycling, and public transportation as Toronto’s population surges and while sunsetting internal combustion engine vehicles.

5. PHASE IN ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOUSING AND BUSINESS PRACTICES:

Focus on climate-adaptive, transit-oriented development to reduce Toronto’s environmental footprint and promote sustainability amid rapid population growth.

6. REINVENT THE GARDINER EXPRESSWAY AND MASS-VEHICLE CONDUITS:

Dismantle outdated infrastructure and invest in community-focused transportation solutions to create a more cohesive and accessible urban environment for an expanding population.

7. REVOLUTIONIZE DATA PRIVACY IN SMART CITIES:

Establish open standards for data anonymity and sharing, positioning Toronto at the forefront of the global smart city movement while ensuring data privacy for its citizens in a digital era.

8. ACCELERATE INCLUSIVITY AND MULTICULTURALISM:

Invest in diverse labor forces and multicultural spaces, reinforcing Toronto’s reputation as North America’s most multicultural city and ensuring a welcoming urban environment for a growing population.

9. EXPAND THE EV NETWORK:

Rapidly develop electric vehicle infrastructure by investing in charging stations, promoting home charging, and retrofitting existing buildings to accommodate EV needs, preparing the city for a greener future.

10. ELECTRIFY PUBLIC TRANSIT:

Set ambitious targets for the electrification of Toronto’s public transit system, aiming to achieve full electrification by 2030 to reduce the city’s carbon footprint and demonstrate its commitment to combating climate change as its population continues to expand.

“I think behind all the awesome ideas we talked about is the concept of political will, and that’s where the mayor can make the biggest dent in terms of creating the political will to make the change to ensure that decarbonization is also a prioritized goal.”

ALSO HEARD FROM THE CITYAGE TORONTO STAGE

“Data is going to be paramount for us to meet net zero goals. We have some real limitations on us as a society, as a country, and every region has their own. And one of the biggest limitations is time. Another major limitation is money. There’s only so much of those two to go around. And if we’re going to make major progress, we have to use data driven decision making.”



BEN ALMOND, CEO, ENGINEERING SERVICES CANADA, SNC LAVALIN

“Construction is actually the part that gives us quite a bit of advantage by reducing its embodied carbon to meet some of our short-term GHG reduction emission targets. So I really like to see that not only do we build the housing, but we approach it in a more sustainable manner, and we don’t separate one from the other. I don’t see them as separate things.”



RAMTIN ATTAR, CEO & CO-FOUNDER, PROMISE ROBOTICS

“My advice for other city leaders in transit is to foster information sharing and collaboration. Visiting different cities and learning from each other’s experiences can lead to valuable insights.”



RICK LEARY, CEO, TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

“Managing and decarbonizing existing infrastructure while accommodating unprecedented growth pressures is a real challenge. Delivering infrastructure rapidly, especially with the expected influx of new units, is the biggest challenge we face. We need to change our mindset, leverage new technologies, and seek unique partnerships with the private sector to tackle these costly challenges and find innovative solutions.”



KEALY DEDMAN, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

“The biggest challenge facing ride-hailing and mobility companies is working with governments that have entrenched views and collaborating to change their mindset, leveraging platforms like ours to meet transportation objectives.”



LAURA MILLER, HEAD OF PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS, CANADA, UBER

“By piloting and implementing new approaches, we can improve the livability of cities and bring about positive change. It is important for the public to understand that solutions exist, and by leveraging available innovations, we can address both affordability and environmental sustainability in the housing sector.”



PETER HASS, ASSOCIATE PARTNER, MAVERIX PRIVATE EQUITY

“We need to accelerate the early adoption of EV chargers because these are network assets that only work when there’s a network. Front-loading the deployment of chargers is the most critical step to drive confidence, vehicle adoption, and create a virtuous cycle of usage and expansion.”



EHREN CORY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

“To balance everyday operations with innovation and address big challenges, transit agencies need to constantly examine their services and explore new possibilities. It’s important to think about how to reach different parts of the city, improve accessibility, and ensure that transit remains an attractive option for current and future riders. Building a strong network and embracing innovation are key to solving these challenges. My advice to other city officials working in public transit is to recognize that the future growth and green development of cities depend on relying more on public transit.”



JAMES PERTTULA, DIRECTOR, TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, CITY OF TORONTO

“The one piece of advice I would give to someone responsible for decarbonizing a city, as part of resilience planning and so on, would be; don’t underestimate the difficulty and the complexity of what we’re in for, for the next couple of decades. It’s going to need root and branch rethinking as to how we can do the things we want to, while just maintaining the city as is. Just keeping the roads operating and the infrastructure working. Those things don’t go away and we’re trying to create this change on top of it.”



STUART MCLAREN, DIRECTOR OF NET ZERO INFRASTRUCTURE, SNC LAVALIN

THE CITYAGE PODCAST



ON ALL MAJOR PLATFORMS



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CityAge Media brings together a community of private- and public-sector leaders who are building the future of our cities and our planet. Through in-person and digital events, along with original content, research, videos, eBooks and the [CityAge Podcast](#), CityAge highlights the ideas, people and technologies solving some of society's biggest challenges and creating new opportunities at the intersection of technology, infrastructure and design.

In 2023, CityAge will host in-person events in Toronto, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Washington, DC, Ottawa, Atlanta, Houston and New York City. Established in Vancouver in 2012, CityAge has hosted more than 100 events with the [world's leading brands](#) and urban leaders, curating networks of people to create public interest and drive stakeholder engagement. For more information about our upcoming events and to see our original content, visit [cityage.com](#).

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