

**Pedestrian Link
Intersection of King Street West and Shaw Street to King
Liberty Area**

Date:	January 29, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Community Planning, Toronto and East York District Director, Transportation Services, Transportation Infrastructure Management
Wards:	Ward 19 – Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	File No. 06 198435 SPS 00 TM

SUMMARY

To report on the need for a pedestrian connection from approximately Shaw Street, south of King Street West, to the King Liberty area, along with the work plan for achieving this pedestrian link.

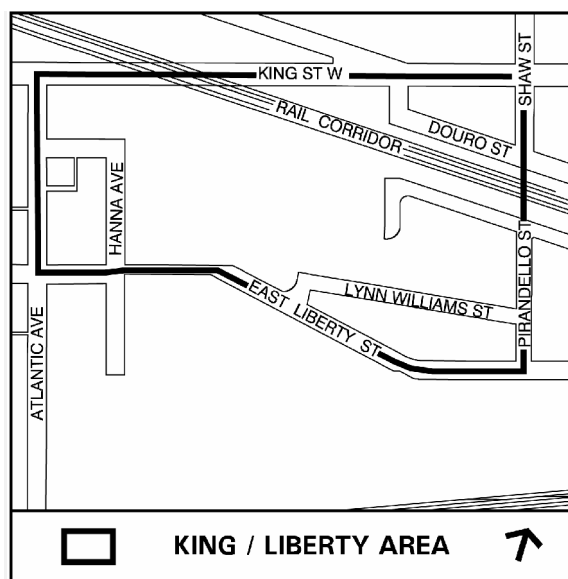
RECOMMENDATION

**The City Planning Division and
Transportation Services Division
recommend that:**

The General Manager of Transportation Services be directed to undertake an Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the pedestrian link to be completed in early 2008.

Financial Impact

Funds for the EA study are contained in the 2007 Transportation Services Division Engineering Studies Account CTP 807-02 and are prior approved.



The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact statement.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At Toronto and East York's Community Council Meeting on September 13, 2006, a communication from Deputy Mayor Pantalone was received by Community Council with a recommendation that the Chief Planner report to the next meeting of Community Council on a pedestrian connection (from Shaw Street south of King Street West) to the Liberty Village area, along with a work plan for achieving this pedestrian connection.

COMMENTS

Demonstrated Need and Proposed Location

There is a significant amount of redevelopment occurring on both sides of the rail corridor. The Ward Councillor and members of the community have raised the issue of better integrating the communities north and south of the CN rail tracks. The potential to provide a pedestrian link was also identified through the planning process for the King Liberty neighbourhood, which is located south of the rail corridor, west of Strachan Avenue.

There are attractions for pedestrians on both sides of the corridor, including shopping, commercial, residential and transit uses. In terms of transit, the King streetcar runs north of the rail corridor. The existing GO transit station and streetcars at Exhibition Place can be accessed through an existing pedestrian tunnel under the Lake Shore rail corridor. Furthermore, City staff are continuing to consider a future GO transit station on the Georgetown line, on King Street West at Douro Street.

The proposed pedestrian connection at the CN/GO rail corridor is approximately 45 metres long. The existing opportunities to safely cross the railway corridor in the King Liberty and King West area are at Strachan Avenue in the east and King Street via Atlantic Avenue in the west. The separation of approximately 775 metres between the Atlantic and Strachan crossings, is inconvenient for residents and workers, and has the potential to result in unsafe crossings between these two locations.

The proposed northern entrance to the pedestrian link is south of King Street West, approximately where Shaw Street meets Douro Street. The proposed southern entrance could be adjacent to Western Battery Road.

Examples of Recent Pedestrian Tunnels Under Rail Tracks

Exhibition Place GO Station

- Constructed in 1997
- 4 tracks above
- 15.6 metres long
- 3.6 metres wide
- Cost between \$3 and 4 million

- Included elevator, staircase, platforms and a wide tunnel

Bala Pedestrian Underpass (West Donlands)

- Currently under construction
- 2 tracks above
- At-grade tunnel through viaduct
- Cost \$1.7 million with yearly maintenance of \$6,000

Port Union Pedestrian Underpass

- Constructed in 2002
- 2-3 tracks above
- Gently sloped underpass
- Tunnel portion approximately \$1.1 million of a \$17 million park redevelopment

The tunnel at Exhibition Place is similar to the one being proposed. Cost of the proposed connection will be determined through the EA process.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act, a pedestrian link would require a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study which would assess the potential environmental impacts and benefits of the project. The EA would also evaluate other alternative crossings in the immediate vicinity to determine the most appropriate crossing. It would take approximately one year for the Class EA Process to be completed.

The EA study will be conducted with the assistance of outside professional engineering/architectural services, under the direction of a technical work group that will include city transportation, urban design and planning staff.

Financing

Funds covering the cost of the EA are currently available in the Transportation Services Division's 2007 Capital Budget.

Partial construction funding is available from a Section 37 contribution of \$100,000.00 that was secured as part of the rezoning process the King Liberty neighbourhood. In addition, property owners in the King Liberty neighbourhood have expressed an interest in contributing to a pedestrian link.

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SIGNATURES

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