

May 26th, 2008

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West
10th Floor West Tower
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Construction Projects and Access to the Waterfront

Recommendations:

1. That Transportation, Technical Services, Toronto Water or any other relevant staff notify affected Councillors' offices by hard copy and by email delivery of any major construction projects in their respective wards at least 6 months in advance of the project start date.
2. That any construction projects which impede pedestrian and/or vehicular waterfront access be expressly brought to the attention of the Councillor's office, Waterfront Secretariat staff and/or staff of the Waterfront West Master Plan group (if boundaries apply), and that the projects receive sign off of all aforementioned bodies **before** proceeding with any projects plans.
3. That alternate access plans or routes to the Waterfront, as agreed to by the above noted parties, be clearly outlined and communicated to the Councillor's office and in any hard copy and email notices that are circulated to affected residents in the area.

Summary:

Notification of major Works construction projects are sent to the affected Councillors' office(s) by hard copy only. Confirmation of receipt of the hard copy notices is not sought by City staff, and it is assumed that the Councillor's office has been notified and is signing off if comments are not provided.

This process does not currently include additional email notification to the Councillor's office. Email delivery can be introduced as further assurance that notification has been received.

The Jameson Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation project began May of 2008. Residents in the area received notices of this work approximately one week before the bridge closing date, with no alternate access to the Waterfront indicated. My office has no record of receiving the hard copy

notification, and therefore were unable to properly consult with stakeholders to provide comments.

There are several issues identified with this project. The Jameson Bridge project severely restricts pedestrian access to the Waterfront for Parkdale-High Park residents during the summer months. Though alternate crossings have been identified in the notification, the distance to travel to and from these points is huge problem. In addition to this, one of the alternate routes indicated in the construction notice will actually not be available for part of the construction timeline.

Technical Services also did not consult with City staff from the Western Waterfront Master Plan (WWMP) study, which is currently examining ways to preserve and enhance access to the Waterfront. This pedestrian bridge at Jameson Avenue is identified in the study as one of only three major access routes to Waterfront. WWMP City staff have extensive knowledge of the area through their work with residents and community stakeholders, and have a keen sense of how the community interacts with these access points. Master Plan staff would have therefore brought considerable levels of analysis to construction site plans and route access changes.

Gord Perks
City Councillor
Ward 14, Parkdale-High Park