

February 3, 2014

Chair and Members
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members:

Re: Request for Report on Feasibility of Closing Gap on Waterfront Trail - Etobicoke Section

The recent completion of the Mimico section of the Waterfront Trail has extended the Etobicoke section of the trail along the water's edge from the Humber River to Norris Crescent. At this point signs direct people following the trail to Lake Shore Boulevard West and west to First Street. Further west, from First Street to the Mississauga boundary, the Waterfront Trail follows quiet local streets close to the lake and through two major parks, Colonel Sam Smith Park and Marie Curtis Park. The City has also recently improved the trail through Marie Curtis Park and the connections west to Mississauga and north along Etobicoke Creek. These existing sections of the Waterfront Trail are enjoyed by thousands of walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages to experience the Etobicoke waterfront. With the projected doubling of Humber Bay Shores by about 2018, usage is increasing – recreational and commuter.

There is one gap in the Etobicoke section of the Waterfront Trail that, if improved, could significantly increase the enjoyment of the waterfront in Ward 6. Between Norris Crescent and First Street trail users are directed by signs to follow Lake Shore Boulevard West. There are no alternate routes south of between Lake Shore Blvd and the lake. Walkers and runners can use the sidewalk safely; however, cyclists must use the roadway in mixed traffic. The fatal collision involving a cyclist, Sue Trainor, in September 2013 highlighted the importance of investigating options for improving safety for cyclists along this section of Lake Shore Boulevard West.

This request should be considered within the context of City Council decision PW15.2 of June 6, 2012, that was in turn considered by Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on May 16, 2012.

Therefore, I am requesting the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to:

Request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to investigate the feasibility of implementing a bikeway facility along Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Norris Crescent and First Avenue, to connect the Etobicoke sections of the Waterfront Trail, in consultation with the Ward 6 Councillor, and to report back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee with a solution on or about June 2014.

Sincerely,

Councillor Mark Grimes
Ward 6 Etobicoke-Lakeshore

T: 416.397.9273
F: 416.397.9279
E: councillor_grimes@toronto.ca
www.markgrimes.ca