

From the Beginning... The Front Street Extension

- The Front Street Extension Project has been a fundamental component of the transportation plan of the central core of the City of Toronto for nearly 20 years
- The extension was first proposed as part of the Central Waterfront Transportation Study conducted in 1983
- In 1989, the former Metro Transportation received Environmental Assessment (EA) approval for the Front Street Extension
- Upon approval from the Metro government, a detailed design and construction plan was developed with an estimated completion date of 1996/97
- Shortly after receiving EA approval, a number of constraints along the Front Street Extension corridor changed (primarily the closure of the Inglis plant) which allowed for the development of alternative alignments
- Despite approval of an alternative alignment in 1997, the project did not proceed due to budget constraints
- In 2000, the Waterfront Revitalization Task Force identified the construction of the Front Street Extension with rail relocation as a key component for the renewal of the city's waterfront
- With the redevelopment of the former Inglis lands, the rail relocation segment of the plan was not possible
- After meetings with stakeholders, a solution was developed where an underpass of the North West rail corridor between Bathurst Street and Strachan Avenue would be constructed as opposed to the overpass which was included in the EA approved alignment
- In March, 2001, the City of Toronto, in conjunction with the Ontario and Federal Governments, announced funding for four initial waterfront revitalization projects
- The Extension of Front Street from Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street is one of these projects with a commitment of \$170 million for planning, design, property acquisition and construction
- In October, 2001, the City of Toronto has initiated a Request for Proposals from consulting firms to carry out the necessary environmental assessment and preliminary design requirements for the Front Street Extension
- Toronto Council approved the hiring of McCormick Rankin Corporation, in association with URS Cole Sherman and Golder Associates, to carry out the environmental assessment and preliminary design study