

Pam McConnell



Councillor, Ward 28
Toronto Centre-Rosedale
City of Toronto

City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Tel: 416 392-7916
Fax: 416 392-7296
TTY: 416 392-1239
councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca



9 April 2008

To: Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

Re: PW14.6 – Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (Schedule “C”) for a New Northwest PATH Connection (Union Station to Wellington Street)

As the local Ward Councillor and as a member of the Union Station Revitalization Public Advisory Group, I am very excited by the report being considered by Public Works & Infrastructure Committee today. I support the Environmental Assessment process and whole-heartedly agree with the conclusions and recommendations in the staff report.

The new underground PATH pedestrian tunnel below York Street will give pedestrians a safe and comfortable environment for commuting to and from Union Station. With the number of passengers moving through Union Station growing every year, this new route will become vital to meeting this demand. It will also play a critical role in the future downtown growth as well as the Union Station Revitalization, approved by Council in December.

But I am equally pleased with the proposed street-level improvements on York Street, including the wider sidewalks, tree plantings, boulevard treatments, and the new surface connections to the pedestrian tunnel. The urban design strategy includes high-quality materials and treatments that are consistent with the Union Station District Plan. We will also benefit from a dedication of 1% to public art.

After construction is complete, we will have a welcoming atmosphere for commuters, visitors, and residents, and it will create a strong connection to Union Station, one of our most treasured heritage jewels and the premier gateway to our city. We will be building a streetscape we can all be proud of.

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The timing of this project is critical, to anticipate the opening of the new York Street concourse area in Union Station. Staff must also be encouraged to pursue opportunities to co-ordinate construction with other projects in the area, including the TTC Subway Second Platform Construction and the potential Front Street Reconfiguration, to minimize costs and the disturbances to pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

I recommend that the Committee approve this important City building opportunity by adopting the staff recommendations.

Sincerely,

Councillor Pam McConnell
City Councillor, Ward 28