

ANSWER TO INQUIRY



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Ms. Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto City Hall
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

This letter is in response to the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Joe Mihevc dated April 18, 2012 entitled "An inquiry on the status of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station.

1. When was the bicycle station portion of the Nathan Phillips Square (NPS) Revitalization Project dropped from the project?

Transportation Services made the decision not to proceed with construction of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station in July 2011.

2. Why was this important piece of cycling infrastructure dropped from the planning of the revitalization project?

The Bike Station design was completed through the design process for the NPS Revitalization Project. The construction of the Bike Station would have occupied 24 car parking spaces in the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) underground garage. The Bike Station was planned on the assumption that the Income Sharing Agreement between TPA and the City would be amended to reflect the loss of revenue from these parking spaces. In early 2011, Transportation Services and TPA drafted a Memorandum of Understanding, in consultation with City Legal and Financial Planning, to set out the roles and responsibilities for the establishment and operation of the Bike Station within the TPA underground garage. During the review of the Memorandum of Understanding, Financial Planning staff advised that "the Income Sharing Agreement should not be amended for service delivery issues" such as the Bike Station. They further advised that "Transportation Services should be funding the cost of the service delivery by way of a budget for that purpose, including whatever rent is required for the spaces."

The estimated cost to compensate the Toronto Parking Authority for 24 parking spaces at market value is approximately \$70,000 per year. This would have significantly increased the annual operating cost for the Bike Station and Transportation Services had not budgeted for this additional cost. In spring 2011, Transportation Services was focused on delivering the 10 percent reduction target for the 2012 Operating Budget and, therefore, could not justify an operating budget increase for the Bike Station.

3. Further, why was the cancellation of the bicycle station not reported on at Council?

Transportation Services considered the decision to be a deferral of the Bike Station rather than a cancellation. The design has been completed and construction could be undertaken in the future when the operating budget pressure could be justified. Transportation Services currently operates one Bike Station at Union Station (79 bicycle spaces) and there are several other Bike Stations in various stages of design and construction. Given the operating pressures facing the Division, Transportation Services

felt it was prudent to complete and operate these additional Bike Stations before constructing the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station.

The additional Bike Stations include:

- Victoria Park Subway Station – opening May 2012 (52 bicycle spaces)
- Pape Subway Station – opening 2013 (50 bicycle spaces)
- Union Station Revitalization – opening 2013 (220 additional bicycle spaces)
- Finch West Subway Station – 2014-15 (80 bicycle spaces)

4. At this point, what can be done to get the plans reopened and to get the implementation of the bicycle station back on track?

The completion of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project does not preclude the potential future construction of the Bike Station within the TPA underground garage. Transportation Services will re-evaluate the economic viability of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station based on the experience gained operating the existing Union Station facility and the new Bike Stations which will come into operation over the next two years. The project could be re-initiated if Transportation Services determines that the NPS Bike Station is economically viable with the additional \$70,000 "rent" associated with compensating TPA for the loss of parking revenue.

Yours truly,

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager