

Pam McConnell



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To: Members, Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: New Business – East Bayfront LRT

Dear Members,

Toronto's waterfront is undergoing unprecedented revitalization. The East Bayfront, situated between Lower Jarvis Street and Parliament Street, Lakeshore boulevard and Lake Ontario, is a current focus for development. After years of planning and community consultation, these lands are being transformed into a new mixed use community.

Already the site of the new Corus building, Sugar Beach, and Sherbourne Common, neighbouring properties are being revitalized. George Brown's new health sciences campus is nearly complete and will open to over 3,500 students in the Fall of 2012. The Monde condominium is currently being marketed and will be the first residential building in East Bayfront. The RFP for the Bayside section brought international investment from the Hines Corporation. Final planning is underway for their first phase, which includes a mix of commercial, condominium, and affordable rental development. In 2015, the West Don Lands, in the immediate area, will be the site of the Pan Am Games Athlete Village.

The need for rapid transit in the area is critical. The East Bayfront Transit Environmental Assessment received final approval from the Ministry of the Environment in 2010 after extensive consultation. The LRT line will connect Union Station to the new waterfront community along Queens Quay, up to Parliament Street. It is also a necessary component to providing future transit to the Port Lands to the east.

In February of this year, a group of investors and landowners wrote to City Council on the need for the East Bayfront LRT. This group of stakeholders has not received a satisfactory response to their request.

Recommendation

1. Toronto City Council identify the East Bayfront LRT line as an added priority project and encourage the TTC, Metrolinx, and the federal and provincial governments to investigate ways and means to facilitate the construction of the East Bayfront LRT at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

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