



April 22, 2013

Re: EX31.13 Restructuring the Relationship with BIXI Toronto Inc.

Dear Mayor and Executive Committee Members,

Building a great city takes work, investment, and ideas. Torontonians take great pride in our city's reputation as being a welcoming, accessible and world-class city. We have worked hard and invested in our services to earn this reputation.

BIXI Toronto has become a critical piece of infrastructure for residents and tourists alike. BIXI serves Bay Street lawyers on their way to meetings across the financial district, people staying in hotels in the city's core, and provides an interim service to those whose bikes are getting repaired. It is an invaluable program for our city and similar bike sharing programs can be found in Paris, New York, Montreal, and Chicago.

The demand for BIXI is significant. During BIXI's first month in May 2011, 64,500 total trips were recorded, of which 28,830 were taken in the last week of May alone. By September 2012, the BIXI program reached a major milestone, recording its 1,000,000th trip. Today it has had over 1.3 million trips.

In June 2011, I moved a motion at the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PW5.11) on the expansion of the Toronto Public Bicycle Program (BIXI). For close to two years now, we have been waiting for staff to report back. When Toronto entered into its agreement with BIXI there was always an understanding that the program would expand and as was mentioned in the Toronto Star on April 18, 2013, it was known that BIXI could not reach its potential at its current level: 1,000 bikes and 80 stations. BIXI needs closer to 3,000 bikes to be more successful in Toronto. I am a Councillor on the periphery of BIXI stations and I hear constantly from my constituents that they would like to see BIXI in Ward 19. I have been working to find ways to fund this expansion.

I am writing to you today to ask that you seek an outcome that allows our public bike sharing program to continue. The demand is high and BIXI is an important part of our transportation network. It provides a great option for people to commute downtown and even provides some relief to our already packed subways, buses and streetcars.

Thank you for your consideration,



Mike Layton  
City Councillor  
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina