



# Janet DAVIS

*City Councillor  
Ward 31  
Beaches-East York*



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September 6, 2013

TO: Chair and Members  
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

RE: **Crescent Town Bridge to Victoria Park Station**

Transportation Services is undertaking a project to rehabilitate the bridge between Crescent Town and Victoria Park Subway Station, (Contract 12SE-12S). The project includes significant structural and surface repairs, including replacement of bridge bearings, expansion joints, roof replacement and window redesign.

The work will require the closure of the bridge for several months and the installation of temporary stairs or a pathway to Victoria Park Avenue. The bridge closure will cause, for a second time, significant inconvenience for almost 10,000 people per day who use this route to access the Victoria Park Station.

In 2010, renovations to the Victoria Park Station also required the closure of the same bridge for several months. A large temporary stair structure was built – and removed – for that project. The temporary access was built through public property under the jurisdiction of Parks and Right of Way Management, Transportation Services.

At that time, there was community interest in maintaining the staircase as an alternative option for accessing the station. This did not happen. The temporary stairs were successful in bringing pedestrian activity to an underutilized and unsafe section of Victoria Park Avenue. This street animation and connectivity had been recommendations in previous land-use studies.

I was unaware until after the project was completed, that TTC had commissioned Brown and Storey, landscape architects, to examine options for connecting the elevated Crescent Town/Dentonia Park neighbourhood to Victoria Park Avenue, where a new pedestrian crossing to the station was being installed on the west side. These designs and permanent access options were never made public and were not pursued at that time.

The site of the proposed temporary walkway and the nearby abandoned parks property are "orphaned spaces" that have been locations of significant concern to residents and the police. These spaces have been the location of several assaults, swarmings and vagrancy. Crescent Town is a priority neighbourhood, and we are working to encourage more activity in public spaces and park spaces during off-peak hours to improve community safety. This project could help address these problems.

I believe we have another opportunity, in connection with the new capital project, to explore a permanent access to Victoria Park Avenue that would help to animate orphaned spaces and bring more life to the street.

I have met with Transportation Services, Engineering and Construction, Public Realm and Pedestrian, TTC and Parks staff to discuss the possibility of making the access to Victoria Park Avenue permanent as opposed to temporary this time. There are many ways this can be done; however, staff requires authority, and ultimately additional funds, to pursue any permanent access options.

I am seeking Council approval to give Transportation Services the authority to undertake a study to determine the feasibility and costs of building a more permanent access to Victoria Park Avenue as part of an existing capital project.

I will be moving the following motion:

**City Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services and Parks Forestry and Recreation to undertake a design and feasibility study of a permanent, rather than temporary, access to Victoria Park Avenue as part of the Crescent Town/ Victoria Park Bridge Rehabilitation Project for consideration in the 2015 Transportation Services Capital plan and any other divisional budgets, as required.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Davis".

Janet Davis  
Councillor Ward 31  
Beaches East York