March 18, 2013

Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
Chair, Public Works & Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen St. West C55
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong,

RE: PW21.5 Managing Construction Disruption

I am very pleased with the recommendations in this report and the positive impact this protocol will have on improving construction management across Toronto. These recommendations demonstrate leadership in policy development that can be matched with leadership in action.

The report cites two examples that are the basis for the new twelve-step policy. Unfortunately, these are not the only two examples to draw on. The TTC's Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) takes the place of a full Environmental Assessment in order to expedite the approval process for important transit projects. The TPAP used on Leslie Street would have been significantly improved had all twelve of these steps been followed. The TPAP lacked two important steps covered in the report:

2.1, Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)
In the process of evaluating the Leslie St. route for the Leslie Barns, the TTC did not evaluate subsurface conditions on Leslie Street. Failure to do so led to unanticipated and unbudgeted construction requirements, and has added many millions to the cost of the project approved through the TPAP.

2.2, Area Traffic Management Plan (ATMP)
No comprehensive traffic review of the area was undertaken during the TPAP evaluation in the selection of the Leslie St. route, despite the impact on industries in the Port Lands with large fleets that depend on Leslie St. for access to their sites. While the TPAP was approved in 2010, it was only in March 2013 that some major employers in the Port Lands were informed, and then only by the City, of the Leslie Street connecting track project.

Therefore, I request the Committee:

1) Request City Council forward this report to the TTC Commission with the request that the TTC align its capital planning process, including any TPAPs, with the City of Toronto's new Construction Disruption Management Strategies described in this report.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth