

**Ward 22, St. Paul's**

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
2nd Floor, Suite A17  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7906  
Fax: 416-392-0124  
councillor\_matlow@toronto.ca  
www.joshmatlow.ca



Chair & Members  
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Re: PW22.9**

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to request that the Committee consider the accompanying recommendation regarding the street furniture contract with Astral Media.

As part of the City of Toronto's Seniors Strategy, there has been a request to review the design of Astral Media street furniture benches to ensure the units are usable for seniors. An appropriate design for seniors would include arm rests and other design standards identified by ergonomic experts.

The City of Toronto prides itself on being an accessible and accommodating place for people of every background and ability. The Seniors Strategy Subcommittee, which I chair, and staff from a wide variety of City divisions have been working with the Toronto Seniors Forum and Expert Panel to identify how we can make Toronto a safe, navigable, affordable, accessible and enjoyable city for one of its fastest growing demographics - seniors. By 2035, one in five residents in Toronto will be over the age of 65.

**Recommendations:**

1. The General Manager, Transportation Services:
  - (a) work directly with the provincial lead for the Ontario Seniors Strategy, to ensure that City benches have the appropriate arm rests and meet the best possible design standards that support various mobility needs.
  - (b) ensure that staff from the Public Realm office and Astral Media consult with the Toronto Seniors Forum prior to implementing changes to the design.

2. That the General Manager, Transportation Services report back to the October 21, 2013 meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee with any proposed changes to the contract arising from the discussions set out in Rec 1.

October 21, 2013,

Sincerely,

Josh Matlow  
Chair, Seniors Strategy Subcommittee  
Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 22 – St. Paul's  
[www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca)