June 14, 2013

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen St W
Toronto M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

Re: Construction Staging Area – 255 Bremner Boulevard / 25 Rees Street

Toronto Hydro’s Asset Management division is adding new capacity to the distribution system in order to help increase reliability and supply in Toronto’s downtown core.

Toronto Hydro is building a new transformer station near the historic Roundhouse north of Lake Shore Boulevard. It will be built under the existing Machine Shop, which will be re-assembled after construction of the station is complete. The Machine Shop will house the protection, control and station service equipment, while the major equipment (transformers, switchgear, cabling, etc) will be housed below.

If the current consumer load growth continues at the same rate as it did between 2006 and 2011, the company’s existing Windsor station will not be able to service customers after 2017, unless more capacity is added. Once in service, the new transformer station at Bremner Boulevard and Rees Street will, in its first phase, add 144 MVA of capacity.

The overall reliability of the electricity grid will improve once aging equipment at the Windsor Transformer Station is replaced with new assets that have longer life-spans. The new station will connect to new infrastructure along Queens Quay, which is being revitalized as part of Waterfront Toronto’s vision for a showcase along the waterfront.

To facilitate construction of the new transformer station, Transportation Services is requesting Community Council authority to close the east sidewalk and curb lane on Rees Street between Lake Shore Boulevard West and Bremner Boulevard for a period of 18 months. Pedestrians will be redirected to the west side of Rees Street by way of signage, traffic control persons and Police Officers during events at the Rogers Centre. Pavement markings on Rees Street will be modified to ensure that two lanes are provided in each direction at all times.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the closure of the east sidewalk and curb lane on Rees Street, between Lake Shore Boulevard West and Bremner Boulevard from June 18, 2013 to December 31, 2014, subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Transportation Services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Vaughan
City Councillor, Ward 20 – Trinity-Spadina