March 7, 2014

Mr. John Livey  
Deputy City Manager  
C/O 24 East, City Hall  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

BILLY BISHOP TORONTO CITY AIRPORT

Dear Mr. Livey,

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to attend the City of Toronto’s public consultation session on January 27 and February 25, 2014. We appreciated the opportunity to provide direct information to the citizens of Toronto and to clarify the position and role of Transport Canada (TC).

This letter is in response to your recent requests for TC’s feedback on the feasibility of the proposed runway extension and its impacts on the Marine Exclusion Zones (MEZ) specifically.

As you know, TC received two separate submissions from the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) and they asked for TC’s comments and feedback. The TPA acknowledged that these submissions were preliminary and did not offer a complete picture or all of the data that TC would require to completely evaluate their proposed project. While TC did offer feedback and comments to the TPA about certain aspects of the submission, in respect to the MEZs that were depicted, there was insufficient information for TC to provide comment. Transport Canada’s role is to promote safety by verifying compliance with the applicable federal legislations. In order to evaluate and come to any conclusions on the MEZs at the Billy Bishop Toronto City Centre Airport, TC would require additional information that it has not yet been provided. I would encourage you to directly engage the Toronto Port Authority for more information.

In closing, I would like to reiterate clearly that Transport Canada’s position on the proposals is one of regulatory neutrality. As regulator, Transport Canada is responsible for promoting safety and security. Transport Canada is committed to working in partnership with industry and community stakeholders to serve the public interest through the promotion of a safe and secure, efficient and environmentally responsible transportation system in Canada. As such, the Department will continue to assess any future runway expansion submissions it receives in the same manner as it would with any other Airport Operator/Owner’s submission.
I look forward to our continued cooperation on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Stephenson
Regional Director General,
Ontario Region

C.c. Geoffrey Wilson, President and CEO, Toronto Port Authority.