May 26, 2014

Councillor Peter Milczyn, Chair, and
Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee

Councillors:

Re. PG33.12 Relief Line Project Assessment: Finalized Terms of Reference and Public Consultation Plan

I am writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee to express our support for the Terms of Reference and Consultation Plan and to urge the Committee to adopt these documents and direct staff to proceed through the next phases of the study as quickly as possible.

The West Don Lands Committee is a coalition of resident, business, environmental, heritage and community based organizations that have worked for 14 years to promote positive, sustainable revitalization of the West Don Lands and Toronto’s central waterfront. Advocating for improved public transit serving those within and those travelling to/through the east downtown has been a key focus for our member organizations.

The Relief Line has the potential to significantly improve regionally based transit trips to the downtown core and to relieve transit congestion within the communities that are part of the West Don Lands coalition. Carefully planned, it also has the potential to support revitalization initiatives along its route.

We join the Corktown Residents & Business Association (a West Don Lands Committee member and a stakeholder during the recent consultations) in supporting both the draft terms of reference and the robust consultation plan outlined in the staff report. The pressing need for improved public transit demands that the recommended studies, the final decisions and the implementation of major relief projects proceed expeditiously. We urge the Planning and Growth Committee and Council to provide staff with direction and resources to proceed without delay.

We look forward to participating in the public consultations.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Wilkey
Chair, West Don Lands Committee
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cc. Councillor Pam McConnell

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