

August 6, 2014

Planning and Growth Management Committee

Dear Councillors,

Eglinton Park Residents' Association is very pleased to see that the Midtown in Focus plan has come forward, and we are happy indeed to endorse it and to urge its acceptance. Our Residents' Association was deeply involved in the consultations and workshops that went into this plan and we much appreciate the results.

A signal virtue, with this plan, is that it succeeds in crossing the often irksome boundary between the North York and Toronto-East-York community councils, which meet, oddly, right in the middle of the intersection of Yonge and Eglinton. This plan manages to draw on the resources of planners both north and south of that division.

We of EPRA are impressed by the importance of that collaboration, and feel urgently that we should keep on rolling. This present plan addresses public realm, an urgent issue in a part of the city growing so rapidly and acquiring so many new towers and new residents. But the present plan does not finish the job. We need to think hard about the massing, and the population inside it. How big, how tall, should the buildings be? And we need to think about the social life, economy, and culture that those buildings will house. We need to guarantee a good mix of residential, commercial and office space, so that Midtown does not become a dormitory. Mix is all the more important given the coming LRT, which should carry Torontonians to Yonge and Eglinton as a destination rather than merely funnel them into an already crammed Yonge line to take them downtown. The imminent intersection of underground transit lines here argues for making this a workplace and place for shopping, entertainment and culture. So much more planning needs to be done.

Best wishes

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Chair, EPRA

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