February 11, 2014

To: Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

Re: Establishing a framework for external research collaborations for Transportation Services

To improve the Division’s pace of innovation and to permit it to bring cutting edge research into practice as quickly as possible, Transportation Services would like to more regularly enter into arrangements with post-secondary institutions, as well as professional, non-governmental organizations such as the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), or other government agencies. These organizations often undertake specialized research and can provide invaluable, objective insight regarding new technologies, products, processes, and techniques which may benefit Transportation Services’ operations, and the residents of Toronto. Such partnerships are often structured to cost-share research projects with other groups.

I would like to see the development of a framework which could streamline and standardize a process for Transportation Services’ to more nimbly respond to external research opportunities and collaborations. Thus, I will be making the following recommendation:

Recognizing the benefits of external research collaborations, I am requesting that the General Manager of Transportation Services report back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on a framework to support expanding and expediting research and innovation through partnering with universities, colleges, NGOs like TAC, professional organizations like National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), and other City, Provincial and Federal agencies, boards, commissions, etc.

Sincerely,

Denzil Minnan-Wong
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Don Valley East