March 3, 2014

Councillor Minnan-Wong
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
Toronto City Hall, Suite C55
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong:

RE: 2014.PW29.2 Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard East Reconfiguration Environment Assessment (EA) and Integrated Urban Design Study (Ward 28, 30)

The Toronto Financial District BIA would like to thank City staff and Waterfront Toronto for their work on the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard East Reconfiguration EA and for this opportunity to provide our input.

Of the four options for the eastern Gardiner presented in the report and being considered at present, the City must implement the maintain option. For any reconfiguration of the Gardiner Expressway, an appropriate capacity of vehicular and transit access to the Financial District and downtown core must be maintained during construction and final installation, and the maintain option is the only option that supports this.

This is not the time to add to Toronto’s transit congestion. The report assumes that a Relief Subway Line, Waterfront East LRT and Broadview Avenue transit extension are coming online to relieve congestion. None are currently funded.

There are currently 200,000 workers each day in the 15 blocks of the Financial District and an additional six million square feet of office space is being constructed within a 10 minute walk of Union Station. When companies from around the world are looking to relocate, they’re attracted to the expertise of Toronto’s workforce concentrated here. They’re not attracted to our transit congestion that already costs us $11 billion per year according to the C.D. Howe Institute. The maintain option for the eastern Gardiner Expressway is the only option that will not add to Toronto’s congestion problem and the only option we can support.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

Best regards,

Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Berardinetti
Councillor Davis
Councillor Grimes
Councillor Layton
Councillor Parker
Councillor McConnell
Councillor Vaughan
Candy Davidovits, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Secretariat
Stephen Buckley, Transportation Services
Andre Filippetti, Traffic Planning
Myles Currie, North York District Transportation Services