

April 7, 2014



Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Chair
City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ont., M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Minnan Wong

Re: PW30.7 Eglinton Connects

I am writing to congratulate city staff on the comprehensive effort that has been made to move forward on improving infrastructure supporting all modes of transportation along the Eglinton Corridor.

As you are aware, Mount Dennis is designated as a mobility hub with connections of the LRT, GO and bus services as well as being the site for the Eglinton Crosstown Maintenance and Storage Facility. We have participated in several years of urban design, station design, MSF design and mobility hub consultations. The complexities of transit planning, intensification and the challenging terrain around Black Creek and the Kodak lands have been given considerable thought through the urban design and environmental assessment process.

Our hope is that the Eglinton Connects infrastructure program will finally deal with the inhospitable concrete canyon now found along Eglinton between Weston Road and Black Creek Drive. Introducing well-designed walkways and bike lanes, greening and streetscaping will interconnect our neighbourhood and businesses along its Weston Road to the new transit facilities, the planned improvements at Keeleedale Park, and the Black Creek /Eglinton Recreation Centre now under construction.

Further, we see that strengthening the Public Realm of the Mount Dennis Mobility Hub will help attract of new, green development and business into the area, adding to the vitality and financial viability of our community. Having been identified as near last in the Urban Heart rankings, it is critical that the city give priority to making improvements to encourage revitalization and enhance the liveability of this area.

We strongly support the city and Metrolinx creating a sufficiently robust capital budget mechanism for ensuring that these needed improvements are built for the Mount Dennis Mobility Hub, and request that it enable implementation during the construction process of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, and not following its completion.

Lastly, in response to need for local access to jobs in historically disadvantaged communities like ours, we respectfully ask that a Community Benefits Agreement be made to leverage the economic opportunities and employment potential and help address the unemployment situation faced in communities like Mount Dennis.

Yours truly,

Marabelle McTavish
President, Mount Dennis Community Association