

June 5th, 2015

His Worship Mayor John Tory
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Councillor Jaye Robinson
Chair, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
City Hall, 10th Floor, West Tower
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillor Robinson,

I am writing with regards to the future of the eastern portion of the Gardiner Expressway and the TFSA's support of the "hybrid" option.

The TFSA has a mandate to promote and grow Toronto as a global financial centre. As you are aware, infrastructure is one of the key components in supporting this mandate as it impacts the quality of life of our residents and the economic competitiveness of the region.

While we all support the need for more transit, a modern road infrastructure is also a critical economic support. Given the City's current transportation challenges, public policy should not hamper or take away transportation capacity. As you also know, a recent study by the University of Toronto makes a strong business case against the "remove" option for the eastern section of the Gardiner. The study cites this option as creating increased commuter times and economic costs from more congestion. This is in contrast with the "hybrid" option that will maintain the current traffic capacity, maintain safety, and allow for the continuous movement of goods, services and traffic.

A strong infrastructure and transportation network helps keep Toronto competitive and ensures a high quality of life for all its residents. In fact, a Conference Board of Canada report about growing financial services head offices in Toronto noted that "improving transportation infrastructure is the most important objective for Toronto to improve its competitiveness."

Toronto's stature as a globally important and economically competitive region cannot be taken for granted and important areas such as infrastructure cannot be neglected. I encourage you and your council colleagues to take this into consideration and support the "hybrid" option.

Sincerely,



Janet Ecker
President & CEO
TFSA

CC: Members of Toronto City Council
City Clerk's Office