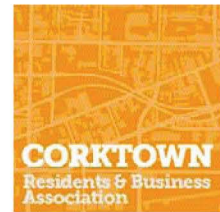


PW4.1.108

Corktown Residents & Business Association
351 Queen Street East
P.O Box 82522
Toronto, ON
M5A 1T8



Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 5, 2015

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors

Re: Item PW4.1 – Council Meeting June10, 2015
Gardiner/Lakeshore Reconfiguration

I write as President of the Corktown Residents & Business Association, which is a not-for-profit incorporated group existing to enhance the quality of residential and business life in, and to act as a voice for, Corktown.

Splitting our community pretty much in two is the Richmond Street off-ramp and the Adelaide/Eastern approach roads to the on-ramp from and to the DVP. In 1962 when these roads were pushed through because of the obsession with the car, this community was literally split asunder and has been trying to overcome that scar ever since. At the CRBA we have to work hard and continuously to find creative ways to get past this physical barrier to re-create what we now, in mid-2015, understand community to be.

Just outside our boundary in the south-east corner of Corktown lies the junction between the Gardiner East and the DVP. What the City is contemplating doing with the Gardiner East is doing exactly the same thing as happened in Corktown in 1962 but in an era which knows better and on a scale which makes the Corktown disaster look miniscule.

The real problem is congestion and that problem is caused by only one thing – the number of cars entering or leaving the central core. The solution is not more roads but a reduction in the number of cars – it is the only solution. It's a solution which, with the political will, can be implemented relatively quickly with relatively low infrastructure cost. And when that happens, the only objection to the removal of the Gardiner East which has any substance, that of the trucking and delivery industry, simply vanishes.

Instead, Council is considering between two options for the Gardiner East, one of which has no rational argument for support in the light of the preceding argument on congestion. The "hybrid" option, which is in fact a worse option than the "maintain" option which Council previously rejected, costs \$500million more over time than the remove option and delivers fewer benefits to the City by "freezing" a critical piece of developable land linking the City with the Port Lands and the vital Unilever development. In fact, it reduces the available income to the City resulting from less developable land, all this in a time when the City is scrambling to balance the budget by cutting what many see as necessary services in a City of this calibre.

Corktown Residents & Business Association

The City has said it can't fund the Eastern Waterfront LRT route because it has no funds – oddly the LRT will cost about \$520million according to City staff. Remove the Gardiner and that problem is solved, delivering untold benefits to the City.

This link between Gardiner and DVP carries 3% of the total traffic on those two highways – the City appears prepared to spend money it does not have, and lose an opportunity to enhance not only its waterfront but indeed its central-core's future along with the significant income that freed-up development lands will deliver. All this to appease 3% of the DVP/Gardiner users most of whom will not even use that mode of transport when congestion is solved in a shorter time frame than either of these options before Council.

We at the CRBA who, with the neighbours copied below all of whom are within Corktown's boundaries, are the closest residential neighbours to the link in question, wholeheartedly support the "remove" or "Boulevard" option before Council for all the reasons stated. We urge Council to make the right practical decision, one best for the City as a whole rather than satisfying a short-term political agenda and a very select few highway users.

We support City-Building and we believe Council should also.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sandra Iskandar, President

www.Corktown.ca | president@corktown.ca | [@CorktownTO](https://twitter.com/CorktownTO)

cc: Deputy Mayor and Ward 28 Councillor Pam McConnell
Corktown Residents & Business Association (CRBA) Board
West Don Lands Committee
Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association
Distillery District