

TORONTO FINANCIAL DISTRICT BIA
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November 7, 2016

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

Mayor Tory and City Council:

**RE: TRANSIT NETWORK PLANNING BENEFITS ALL OF US
EX19.1 TRANSIT NETWORK PLAN UPDATE AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Toronto Financial District BIA supports the Transit Network Plan. This vital infrastructure link will better connect critical employment centres and residential populations to jobs in the downtown core.

Our organization is encouraged to see the City move forward with a systemic network approach to transit planning and away from discussing single transit investments in isolation. This recognizes the importance of continually investing in multiple transit projects with interweaving timelines, including SmartTrack, Eglinton West LRT as well as a future Relief Line subway.

Better public transit is a key aspect of retaining and attracting investment in Toronto. This is a high priority for our BIA. Our organization represents fifteen square blocks where more than 200,000 people come to work each day. Our 2015 Workday Population Survey showed us where they're coming from – about a quarter of Financial District workers come from the three downtown wards. Another 39% come into work from the rest of Toronto. That leaves 36%, more than one-third of our Financial District workers who commute from outside of the City of Toronto.

The SmartTrack and Eglinton West LRT proposals will further expand access to employment across the City and region. We are confident the City has taken the best of a number of concepts and begun moving them toward reality.

With the federal and provincial governments committed to significant funding toward the Transit Network Plan, Toronto has an advantage it has not always had, and may not have again in the future.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GHUMES".

Grant Humes
Executive Director