



Waterfront Trail

A signature project of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust

February 28, 2016

To: Members of Public Works & Infrastructure Committee: pwic@toronto.ca,
Councillor Jaye Robinson" <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>,
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon" <councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca>
Councillor Anthony Perruzza" <councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca>
Councillor Ron Moeser" <councillor_moeser@toronto.ca>
Councillor Chin Lee" <councillor_lee@toronto.ca>,
Councillor Stephen Holyday" <councillor_holyday@toronto.ca>

Regarding: PW11.6

Waterfront Trail - Proposed Contra-flow Bicycle Lanes on Waterfront Drive and Feasibility of Closing Gap on Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Norris Crescent and First Street

Dear Committee Members;

Please accept this letter as the Waterfront Regeneration Trust's whole-hearted support for the **improvements to the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail on Waterfront Drive and Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Norris Crescent and First Street proposed by City Staff.**

Founded by the Honourable David Crombie, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust is the charity leading the work to create a Great Lakes Waterfront Trail in collaboration with close to 100 waterfront municipalities. The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail is a legacy initiative that represents the first step towards regenerating and revitalizing our Great Lakes. In addition to being a well-loved recreational and fitness amenity, and green transportation alternative, the Trail is becoming a major attraction for cycle tourists.

The proposed improvements significantly increase safety for thousands of cyclists—residents, commuters and visitors alike who use Toronto's western Great Lakes Waterfront Trail by separating them from the vehicular traffic on Lakeshore Rd, and in the case of Waterfront Drive, by separating cyclists from pedestrians along this popular stretch of Trail.

In addition to being the executive director of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, I am a long-time Etobicoke resident and avid Waterfront Trail user. This project resolves a long-standing gap in our beautiful Trail and makes it possible for families

to cycle the length of Toronto's Waterfront Trail using dedicated paths and quiet residential streets. This project moves the City closer to achieving the legacy goal we collectively set for the Trail—a dedicated route as close to the water's edge as environmental feasible to represent a new relationship to our Great Lakes.

I would also like to take this moment to encourage the City to include the addition of Waterfront Trail directional signs bearing the distinctive bird, leaf, fish symbol along the new route. This symbol is the consistent mark that guides people along the impressive 1600 km Trail from Grand Bend (thanks to the 2016 expansion into Lambton County) to the Quebec border. In our annual poll of cycle tourists, consistent signage is routinely identified as a priority to having the Trail achieve its tourism potential.

Closing this 1.4 km gap with the construction of bi-directional cycle track would represent an important accomplishment for cycling in the City of Toronto and for the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail.

Thank you for your long-standing commitment to the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail and the wonderful improvements that have been made to Toronto's waterfront, and to cycling infrastructure in Toronto. It is quite gratifying to see the progress made over the years.

Sincerely,



Marlaine Koehler
Executive Director
Waterfront Regeneration Trust

cc: Councillor Mark Grimes, councillor_grimes@toronto.ca
Stephen Buckley, General Manager, Transportation Services
Jacquelyn Hayward Gulati, Manager Cycling Infrastructure and Programs
Jamie Stuckless, Share the Road Coalition
Jared Kolb, Cycle Toronto