

April 22, 2016

Councillor Jaye Robinson
Chair, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West, Suite A12
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Councillor Robinson and Committee Members,

Westbank is a real estate development company operating across North America, with a \$25 billion portfolio of apartments, office, retail, condos, hotels, and affordable housing completed and under development. As you may be aware, Westbank is the owner of the Honest Ed's/Mirvish Village lands at Bloor & Bathurst, a property that includes approximately 500 feet of frontage on Bloor Street West. In 2015, we submitted a rezoning application for the site that envisions 1000 rental units, family-sized units, a market, a pedestrian-oriented and restored Markham Street, and many other public realm benefits. In particular, the proposal includes a comprehensive cycling program, with a dedicated bike parking ramp, a bike valet, an integrated bike co-op and a bike share program. Westbank has integrated these components into the project because we realize the immense social, environmental, and economic benefits of greater cycling mode share in the Annex and in Toronto more generally.

To that end, we write to you to express our full support for the Bloor bike lanes pilot project. The lanes will increase economic activity for merchants on Bloor Street, improve safety for cyclists of all ages, and encourage more people – including the future residents of Mirvish Village – to commute by bicycle, thereby reducing congestion. We hope that the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee approves this vital transportation pilot project for the corridor.

Yours very truly,



Peter Venetas
Westbank Projects Corp.

