

PW12.11.1



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April 25, 2016

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

City of Toronto

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Item PW12.11 (Emery Village Road 2A – Municipal Class Assessment Study)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Emery Business Improvement Area (BIA) regarding the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Agenda Item PW 12.11 Emery Village Road 2A – Municipal Class Assessment Study and the General Manager, Transportation Services' corresponding report and recommendations. I would like to express the BIA's support for this report as it acknowledges the critical nature of City Council's approval and the construction of Road 2A to the businesses and residents of Emery as well as the thousands of drivers who travel through our community daily.

Road 2A is a new service road that will connect Finch Avenue West to Toryork Road, just west of Weston Road. Due to the nature of the surrounding area, the portion of Finch Ave W that extends across the Emery district is a primary connection between the 400 series highways and many of Toronto's industrial sites. It endures heavy usage by both vehicular and transport traffic on a daily basis, and the Finch Ave W/Weston Rd intersection is particularly congested beyond typical rush hour periods. The construction of Road 2A will thus provide valuable benefits, as outlined in the General Manager's report, that will improve vehicular traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the immediate vicinity. These benefits include "alleviating congestion at the Finch Avenue West/Weston Road intersection and providing improved access for heavy trucks to/from the industrial area in the northwest quadrant."

Additionally, Road 2A will feature "2.1 m wide sidewalks on both sides of the street...will form a new signalized intersection with Finch Avenue West and a new stop-controlled intersection with Toryork Drive." These are especially important, as Finch Ave W does not currently have adequate pedestrian crossings, making it difficult to deter residents and workers from using their vehicles to traverse the area, even for short distances.

For these reasons, the Emery BIA strongly supports the General Manager's recommendation that "City Council endorse the recommendations included in the Emery Village Road 2A Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA)". However, we believe that there is further work to be done in order to alleviate traffic pressure in Toronto's North West quadrant.

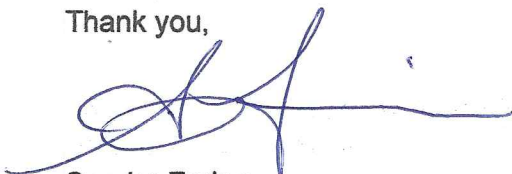
Road 2A was initially approved in 2009 as part of the Emery Village Transportation Master Plan, which was intended to identify a transportation infrastructure solution and implementation plan in order to support development in Emery. Although it provides much needed relief for the Finch Ave W/Weston Rd intersection, Road 2A only begins to alleviate the current issues surrounding goods movement in the broader Emery community, which will only increase with the onset of Metrolinx's construction of the Finch West LRT, estimated to begin in 2017..

The construction phase of the Finch West LRT will increase travel time for vehicular traffic, compromising the effective flow of goods and services. Additionally, once complete, the design of the LRT will not allow adequate space for long combination vehicles to navigate successful U-turns on Finch Ave W. These tractor trailers will therefore require re-routing, resulting in higher operational costs for business owners.

The original Transportation Master Plan studied only a small section of the Emery district, yet the entire length of our community will be impacted by the Metrolinx project. Thus, a more comprehensive study is required to identify how Road 2a can be used most efficiently, and additional opportunities for the construction and/or designation of relief routes for the trucking industry. City staff developed Terms of Reference for a Goods Movement Study (GMS) over a year ago to undertake a comprehensive review of existing and future truck operations related to goods movement in the Finch West corridor. The BIA is adamant that, in addition to the construction of Road 2a, this GMS process must be executed as soon as possible in order to ensure that Emery's businesses do not suffer more than necessary, both in terms of cost and accessibility. To that end, we respectfully request that staff be directed to report back to the next PWI committee meeting on a proposed timeline for the execution of the GMS.

The BIA is encouraged by the General Manager, Transportation Services' acknowledgement of the importance of Road 2A to the continued development and revitalization of our community. I look forward to continuing to work with Council and City staff on the implementation of these crucial initiatives and those that will ensue in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Farina', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sandra Farina
Executive Director, Emery Business Improvement Area