



November 16, 2017

To: Chair Thompson and Members of the Economic Development Committee

From: Maureen Sirois, Chair, The Eglinton Way BIA

Re: ED 25.6 – Potential Policies and Programs to Support Toronto Retail Areas

I am writing to you on behalf of The Eglinton Way BIA to convey our enthusiastic support for the recommendations contained in this staff report on potential initiatives to support Main Street Retail. Although the members of my BIA will be excited by the report and its recommendations in their entirety, we are particularly pleased to see the recommendations that pertain to mitigating the impacts associated with long-term public infrastructure construction.

The Eglinton Way and neighbouring BIA's have been enduring the impacts associated with the construction of The Crosstown for about three years, and still have four more to go. As noted in the staff report, it is the small businesses on Eglinton that have been affected the most by the impacts of this invasive construction for several years as it directly impacts their bottom line and livelihoods.

"When such disruptions occur within retail main streets, it affects the residents who live nearby and commuters who pass through the area on their way to work, but the most consequential negative impacts fall disproportionately on the small businesses that depend on direct and convenient access for their clients and customers." p. 5

Our BIA and our small business owners have already been significantly affected by this major construction project. The financial impact on our local businesses has been severe and it has consumed much of the time, effort and resources of the BIA as we try to anticipate and deal with ongoing issues related to street and sidewalk closures, loss of parking and walk-in traffic and dealing with a never-ending stream of construction notices and meetings. All the while managing issues that are far beyond the normal purview of an organizations such as ours.

We support The Crosstown and appreciate the assistance we have received from Councillor Carmichael Greb and Councillor Matlow and City Transportation staff, however, as I noted in my deputation to the



Public Works Committee on this issue back on March 1st 2016,

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/pw/comm/communicationfile-59384.pdf>

there is much more that can be done. This report is a fine start – even if it is a few years too late for those businesses on Eglinton that have already been hit hard or closed as a result being collateral damage to this City-building initiative. After the experiences on St. Clair West, near the Leslie Street Barns and now 3 years of on-going construction on Eglinton, we know the consequences associated with long-term public infrastructure on local small businesses, it is certainly about time to take action, especially with all the new planned transit projects getting underway across the City.

Maureen Sirois

The Eglinton Way BIA Chair