



September 26, 2017

Re: EX27.24 Adjustment to the 2017-2026 Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services: King-Liberty Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge

Dear Chair and members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing to urge you to adopt staff and Budget Committee recommendations to amend and increase the 2017-2026 Approved Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services to allow the bridge to be funded from Development Charges and to provide additional funds needed to facilitate the construction of the King-Liberty Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed and endorsed by City Council in 2011. Since then, design and construction of the bridge has run into a number of delays. We are now, finally, nearing a point where design is almost complete and we are looking ahead to beginning construction in 2018. Unfortunately, due to Metrolinx design requirements and accessibility requirements, the actual cost of the bridge has increased from the original estimate contained in the EA and as such, the funding is no longer sufficient to complete this much-needed project.

With that said, there has been a significant amount of development on both sides of the rail corridor in recent years. Despite the development, very little has been done to improve connectivity between the Liberty Village and King West neighbourhoods. This bridge is our opportunity to correct those failings and provide thousands of residents with this key connection.

The need for this bridge is 100% related to the community's growth. It stands to reason that it should be funded by Development Charges as staff are recommending. I urge you not to further delay construction of this bridge.

In community,

Mike Layton
City Councillor
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina