

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM43.57	ACTION			Ward:7
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Supporting Finch Avenue West LRT during Construction - working with Metrolinx to review and undertake initiatives aimed at supporting businesses during the long construction period of the Metrolinx Finch Ave West LRT Project - by Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to report back to the July 23, 24 and 25, 2018 City Council meeting on:
 - a. establishing an inter-divisional and agency working group to coordinate City efforts to identify local opportunities and to maximize the social and economic impact of the Finch Avenue West LRT investment;
 - b. integrating "Finch is Open for Business" messaging into City of Toronto communication channels including print publications, posters, social media and press releases;
 - c. designating Finch West Avenue as a Culture Hotspot for 2019 , 2020 or 2021;
 - d. exploring a business tax deferral program for Finch Avenue West businesses and building owners;
 - e. requesting an assessment freeze from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for the duration of construction on retail properties behind construction hoarding and/or within 200 metres of future Light Rail Transit stations;
 - f. installing temporary bus shelters where technically feasible, if existing bus shelters have been removed for longer than 6 months to accommodate construction;
 - g. waiving Street Event Fees for permitted Business Improvement Area/community events along the Finch Avenue West corridor for the duration of construction;

- h. conducting Economic Scans of Finch Avenue West Business Improvement Area areas impacted by construction, including the Emery Village Business Improvement Area; and
- i. developing a plan for reducing litter along the Finch Avenue West corridor during construction.

2. City Council direct the City Manager to request Metrolinx to:

- a. negotiate arrangements similar to easement agreements that offer financial support and/or incentives for businesses that are directly behind station construction hoarding;
- b. establish a "business continuity fund" to be funded equally by the City of Toronto, and Metrolinx, that would allow businesses that are situated behind construction hoarding or adjacent to station construction sites and that can exhibit a loss in revenue to apply for modest financial relief through a forgivable loan(modelled on the Minneapolis/St. Paul program);
- c. provide quarterly Community Benefits Program updates, including apprenticeship and employment metrics, to the City of Toronto Economic Development and Culture and Social Development Finance and Administration Divisions;
- d. provide funding for City of Toronto developed television and radio spots promoting Finch Avenue West; and
- e. work with local businesses and Business Improvement Area's to develop promotions and "construction hat specials" to incent those working on the Finch Avenue West LRT to spend locally.

Summary

Finch Avenue West is in the midst of a transformation, with the construction of the Finch Avenue West LRT well underway. When the construction of the Finch LRT ramps up, the local residents and businesses will continue to experience disruption due to construction, including traffic congestion, reduced parking, and declining business revenues.

The City of Toronto continues to work with Metrolinx to ensure access, safety and cleanliness along the corridor. With the line set to open in 2023, it is critical that the City of Toronto supports the businesses and residents along Finch Avenue West over the next five years. In an effort to support local businesses during the next phases of construction, the items in this Motion are recommended.

This Motion is urgent as the LRT is under construction and business are struggling.

Background Information (City Council)

MM43.57