

May 1, 2018

COMPLETE
THE CORE



Dear Chair and Members of Planning and
Growth Management Committee,

Re: PG29.4 TOcore – Complete the Core

Our city is growing fast. As you all know, much of that growth is happening in the downtown core. The downtown is home to 25% of the jobs in the city - set to grow from 500,000 now to 915,000 in the future - but also to residential neighbourhoods that have grown rapidly over the last 15 years, growth that we see only continuing, from 250,000 now to almost 500,000 in the future. Hundreds of thousands of Torontonians now live downtown, in largely vertical communities. But, while countless condos were being built, the City didn't keep up with building the infrastructure needed to build complete communities, like new schools, parks, and community spaces. Parents are struggling to find schools, day care and programming for kids. We need more greenspace and the kind of community spaces that bring people together.

This is our chance to change that. In approving TOcore, we can choose to invest as a city in building complete communities in the downtown core. We can invest in the services, facilities and infrastructure that all our neighbourhoods rely on, that make communities desirable, equitable, and places where people can truly build a home.

After years of consultation, people across the downtown are calling for our city to respond to this need, to catch up and build what was needed in the past, and to plan for the future. They are asking City Council to invest resources to build more inclusive and sustainable communities. At a time when many people are talking about cutting public services, we need to be bold and commit to investing in our communities by providing critical services like libraries, child care, transit, parks, and community centres--even our water and energy infrastructure needs up be upgraded in the core to meet the demand.

The vision set out in TOcore will shape the investments we make in this city over the next 25 years. Voting to support these investments will create communities that can thrive, that welcome all those who call them home, all of us who travel through and within them, and countless visitors from across our city and around the world.

Please commit to vote yes to investing in our downtown communities, by approving TOcore.

Sincerely,

Asuma Malik, TDSB Trustee
Ward 10, Trinity-Spadina