

April 8, 2019

Mayor John Tory
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2



**RE: Acceleration of planning and construction of the Waterfront East LRT
EX4.1 – Toronto's Transit Expansion Program**

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee,

We are pleased to see the expansion of transit is a priority for the City of Toronto. The Waterfront Business Improvement Area (BIA) knows both the cost and opportunity of expanded transit. Our businesses remember the recent construction along Queens Quay and are also grateful for the benefits of the higher standard of transit along the corridor provided by the City of Toronto, TTC and Waterfront Toronto.

Our BIA's mandate is to support the development of a well-connected waterfront destination that supports the continued growth of its business community. **We are writing today to encourage an accelerated timeline and review of additional options to phase-in east-west connectivity along the rapidly expanding eastern waterfront corridor.** As the construction of an expanded Queens Quay to Union tunnel would require up to five years of tunnel closure, we encourage a look at options to add the east-west connectivity early in the process.

The eastern waterfront is the largest development opportunity in the greater Toronto area. According to an economic impact study prepared for the Waterfront BIA by Hatch, up to 132,000 jobs and 67,000 new residents would be supported along the corridor by 2045 if the Waterfront East LRT were built through the Port Lands by 2025. We know the Waterfront East LRT has users ready to go. We surveyed weekday commuters along the Queens Quay corridor and 53% said they'd be more likely to use public transit if additional subway and LRT connections were built downtown and along the waterfront. Opening up development along the corridor would mean more people living close to work, increased capacity for additional commuters to work downtown, and more public access to the waterfront's parks, attractions and landscape.

We'd like to thank the staff at the City of Toronto, TTC and Waterfront Toronto for their consultation with the Waterfront BIA and stakeholders along the corridor. We look forward to continuing to work together to accelerate connectivity along the waterfront for Toronto's workers, residents and visitors from around the region and the world. Please contact me at tkocur@waterfrontbia.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Kocur, Executive Director
The Waterfront BIA

CC: Councillor Cressy, Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York
Councillor Fletcher, Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth