

**March 01, 2019**

His Worship John Tory  
Mayor, City of Toronto  
100 Queen St. W.  
City Hall, Second floor, West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**RE: Request to Ensure Relief Line is Subway Priority One**

Dear Sir,

We are writing this letter on behalf of all Downtown Business Improvement Areas regarding the urgent need for continued transit improvements servicing the downtown area including our support of the Relief Line as the top transit priority for the City of Toronto.

We appreciate the commitment you have shown to building the Relief Line faster and are **requesting you to continue your efforts to ensure the Relief Line remains a city top transit priority**. We acknowledge that the addition of other transit projects in simultaneous development with the Relief Line is a justifiable long-term goal. However, adding more riders to an overcrowded Line 1 before the activation of the Relief Line would have an incredibly negative impact on the users of the system and the downtown employment base.

Downtown Toronto delivers a quarter of the City's tax base and produces half of the export-based Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Home to roughly 240,000 residents and close to 500,000 jobs, the Downtown Toronto workforce and residents rely heavily on the TTC.

A growing population will put greater pressure on our transit system. The average daily ridership at Bloor-Yonge station alone is at over 400,000 riders a day and overcrowding is creating concerns for the safety of TTC users. System outages and delays are a reminder of the economic costs of delaying the Relief Line and prioritizing other transit development projects.

We hope that the consultation process between the City and the Province on uploading subway infrastructure results in a firm plan to ensure the Relief Line opens before another subway expansion.

We want to express our appreciation to you and all the City Staff that have continued to champion the Relief Line as Toronto's top transit priority.

Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,

**Executive Directors of the Downtown Toronto Business Improvement Areas (BIA):**

**Briar de Lange – Executive Director, Bloor-Yorkville BIA – [briar@bloor-yorkville.com](mailto:briar@bloor-yorkville.com)**

**Mark Garner – Executive Director, Downtown Yonge BIA – [mgarner@downtownyonge.com](mailto:mgarner@downtownyonge.com)**

**Grant Humes – Executive Director, Financial District BIA – [ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com](mailto:ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com)**

**Tim Kocur – Executive Director, Waterfront BIA – [tkocur@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:tkocur@waterfrontbia.com)**

**Al Smith – Executive Director, St. Lawrence Market BIA – [alsmith@stlawrencemarketbia.ca](mailto:alsmith@stlawrencemarketbia.ca)**

**Janice Solomon – Executive Director, Entertainment District BIA – [jsolomon@torontoed.com](mailto:jsolomon@torontoed.com)**

For additional information or enquiries, please contact: !

Frank Paul, Communications Manager !

Toronto Entertainment District BIA !

[fpaul@torontoed.com](mailto:fpaul@torontoed.com) !

(416) 926-1337

CC:

Vincent Gasparro – Principal Secretary at Office of the Mayor, City of Toronto

Michael Lindsay – Provincial Special Advisor on Uploading – Province of Ontario

Shelly Tapp – Deputy Minister (interim), Ministry of Transportation – Province of Ontario

Hon. Monte McNaughton – Minister Infrastructure – Province of Ontario

Hon. Stephen Lecce – Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Infrastructure – Province of Ontario

Hon. Jeff Yurek – Minister of Transportation – Province of Ontario

Hon. Kinga Surma – Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Transportation – Province of Ontario

Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Province of Ontario