



LIBERTY
VILLAGE
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

EX4.2.13

April 3, 2019

RE: Agenda Item EX4.2 The Future of King Street - Results of the Transit Pilot

Dear City Council and the Clerk,

I'm writing today to express the Liberty Village Residents' Associations support for making the King Street Pilot Permanent. We represent over 11 000 residents living in and around Liberty Village.

Liberty Village is an unparalleled success story in downtown Toronto. One half residential and one-half employment zone - with lots of incredible retail in between - it is a unique neighbourhood full of empty nesters, millennial techies, creative strategists, thousands of furry friends we call dogs, and, increasingly hundreds of families and children. Not to mention the more than 600 businesses and 11 000 employees that work and commute to Liberty Village. If you like the Raptors, the TFC, the Toronto Wolfpack, Universal Music, Live Nation concerts, Beanfield Metroconnect or many others - you know of our neighbourhood and we welcome you to it.

But this success, this growth and this increased density hasn't been easy.

Under the weight of this success - and struggling to continue the momentum - we have been transit starved. We currently have 9 more condominiums under construction that will add another 3500 units and 6000 residents - all within the next 2 years on 2 city blocks - and this doesn't even include the tremendous volume of commercial construction and employment growth the west side of Liberty Village is experiencing.

This new residential construction will generate almost \$30 million in municipal land transfer tax and will continue to contribute more than \$14 million yearly in residential property tax - and all of these new residents will use a single lane artery to get into and out of their home. It is no surprise then that most of us use transit, cycling and walking as our primary mode of transportation. Thankfully, this new car free way of living - a standard echoed in truly world class urban centres around the world - is being acknowledged by developers. It is now normal to have 500 cycling parking spaces and only 150 car parking spaces in these developments when only 5 short years ago it was the inverse.

In this context and especially with regard to this level and speed of change and density - density which we love and which we thrive within - getting around the city in a timely manner is essential. Reliable transit is not a luxury for us. It is a **necessity** for our lives, for our livelihoods and for the businesses we work for.



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Over the past year, prioritizing transit from Bathurst to Jarvis has reached far beyond those boundaries - and makes traveling within Toronto's core exponentially easier, faster and efficient.

What used to be a guessing game when it came to catching a streetcar with regular 25 minute waits in the freezing cold alongside 100's of your neighbours, has now become a consistent delivery of service every 3-5 minutes saving many people 20 minutes each way or more and significantly improving their lives.

The King Street pilot has provided us, finally, with a fast and reliable means to get to work, to take our children to school and daycare, to go out in the Entertainment and King West districts, to see a show, have dinner, shop and visit family and friends - it is our LIFELINE - with "transformational" being the one word most used to describe the positive impact it has had.

City building is never easy. Change can be hard. We acknowledge that there is a small minority upon whom this has had a less positive affect and we hope that the city can work with these few to improve their outcomes and practices. That being said, the needs of 100's of growing businesses and tens of thousands of employees and residents has to take precedence when determining to make this pilot permanent.

The board of the Liberty Village Residents' Association is diverse and seldom takes a position on city building issues, but considering mobility is the #1 issue affecting our neighbourhood, we have endorsed making the King Street Pilot permanent, 24/7, and urge all elected city officials to do likewise. Our city needs this kind of important, forward thinking leadership.

Sincerely,

Todd Hofley
President
Liberty Village Residents' Association