

January 17, 2020



Councillor Gary Crawford
and Councillors of the Budget Committee

**RE: BV5.1 - Support for 2020 Budget, including Waterfront LRT Acceleration,
Winter Tourism and Improvements to Gardiner Corridor Underpasses**

Dear Councillor Crawford and members of the Budget Committee,

Our BIA's mandate is to support the development of the waterfront as a premier destination that is well-connected to the rest of the City and beautiful, fun and vibrant year-round. We wish to express deep appreciation for the work the City of Toronto does across our city and specifically along our beautiful waterfront, including the following initiatives:

Waterfront East LRT: The benefits of accelerating construction

We are encouraged to see funding in the 2020 Budget to complete design of the Waterfront East LRT and make it eligible for full capital funding in the near-term. The Waterfront BIA has prepared an [economic impact study on the acceleration of the LRT](#) and a [Waterfront Commuter Survey](#) that show the benefits of accelerating its construction (*more on pg. 2*). Further, we will continue sharing information about the LRT with departments of the City involved with prioritizing transit funding allocation this year.

Winter Tourism: Toronto as a year-round destination

We are strong supporter's of the Mayor and City's upcoming winter tourism and public art initiatives and look forward to partnering with the City where possible. As you'll see on *pg. 3*, our BIA has continued to lead on bringing year-round activation to the downtown. In partnership with Winter Stations, we were able to bring two world famous interactive, illuminated installations, "Loop" and "Impulse" to the waterfront, and encourage the City to support expansion of this and other programs.

Gardiner Corridor: Friendlier, safer underpasses after Rehab

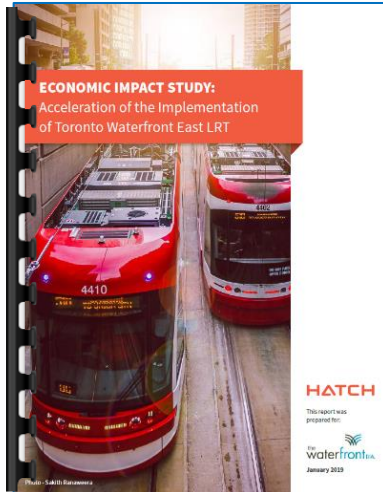
The Bentway and Underpass Park have shown how incredible public spaces can be when the underside of the Gardiner is given an ambitious vision. This year, our BIA engaged Ken Greenberg and PUBLIC WORK to develop '[Waterfront ReConnect](#)' and a first pilot to make the Gardiner connections friendlier was completed at Rees in partnership with the City's Economic Development and Culture BIA Office (*photos on pg. 4*). We strongly encourage the City to continue working with Waterfront Toronto, The Bentway Conservancy, Entertainment District BIA, our Waterfront BIA and other stakeholders to implement a corridor plan to beautify and improve safety under the Gardiner as the Rehab is completed.

We look forward to continuing to work together to accelerate connectivity and beautification 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

Waterfront East LRT: The benefits of accelerating construction



If the Waterfront East LRT were constructed by 2025 through the Port Lands, the following development would be supported by 2045:

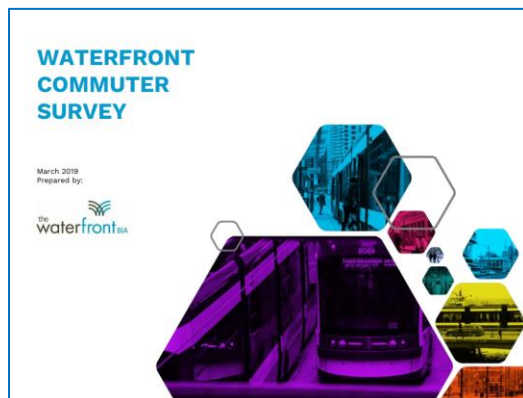
67,000 new residents

132,000 new jobs

\$24 billion in additional tax revenue (\$10 billion municipal)

44% decrease in automobile use by incoming workers and residents along the LRT corridor.

Economic impact study on acceleration of the Waterfront East LRT prepared by Hatch:
<https://bit.ly/2RpLRNf>

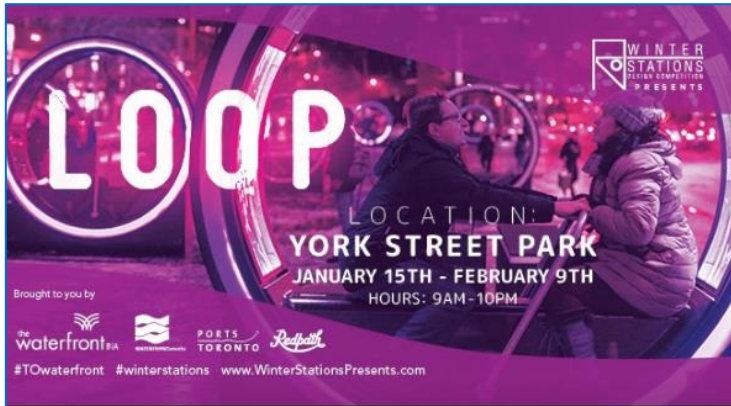


53.5%

of workers said that they would use public transit more if additional subway and LRT lines connecting downtown and the waterfront were built.

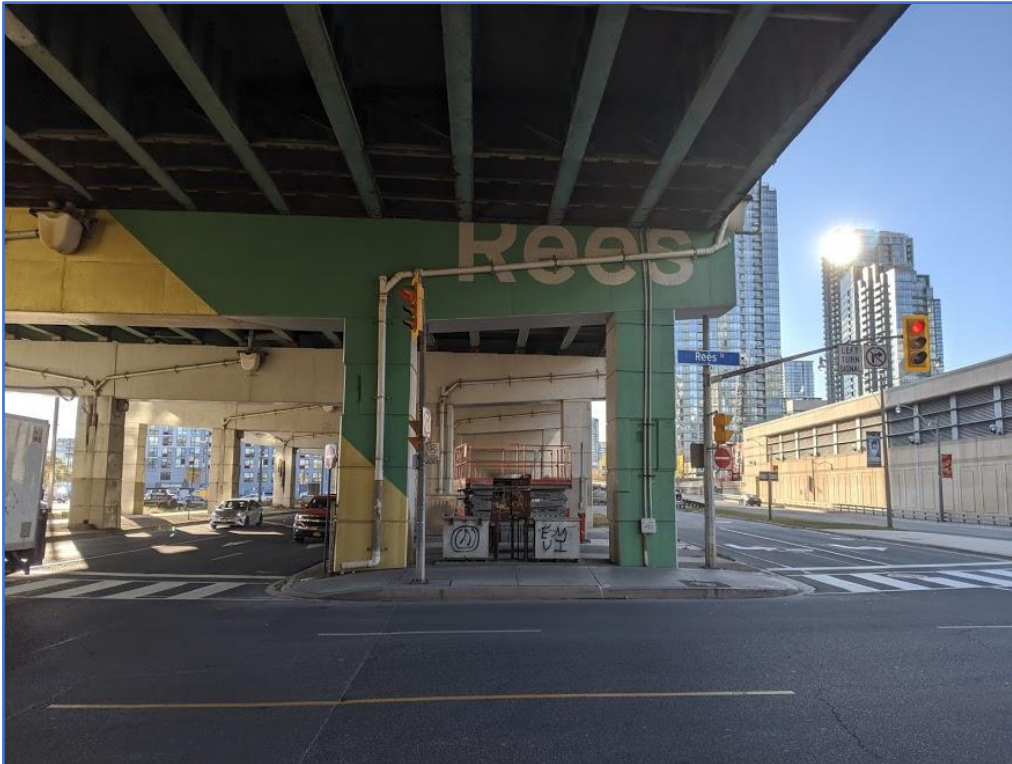
Waterfront Commuter Survey prepared by the Waterfront BIA: <https://bit.ly/2R0Nv97>

Winter Tourism: Toronto as a year-round destination



The Waterfront BIA's partnerships with Winter Stations this year brought "Impulse" and "Loop" to Toronto for the first time.

Gardiner Corridor: Friendlier, safer underpasses after Rehab



First pilot project this year at Rees for 'Waterfront ReConnect' vision developed by Ken Greenberg and PUBLIC WORK.

The Waterfront BIA is grateful for partnership and support from a wide range of stakeholders on this project, including the City's Economic Development and Culture BIA Office, Waterfront Toronto and the Entertainment District BIA.

The BIA is preparing additional underpass improvement pilots this year.