
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM24.18	ACTION			Ward: 10
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The Bentway Under Gardiner Corridor Plan Proposal - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Transportation Services, the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and the Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships to review The Bentway Conservancy's Under Gardiner Corridor Plan proposal and consider which aspects of the proposal are aligned with City plans, policies and programs and which could be realized through planning and development applications/approvals, rehabilitation/maintenance programs related to City roads, sidewalks and related infrastructure, and capital programs related to public realm improvement.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services and the Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services to meet with The Bentway Conservancy in Fall 2020 to develop an updated framework by Spring 2021 for how Gardiner maintenance programs/protocols can be optimized to facilitate the programming of renewed public spaces beneath the Gardiner, including The Bentway.

Summary

The City and its partners continue to advance the strategic goal of removing barriers/making new connections along major transportation infrastructure through projects such as Underpass Park, the Waterfront Business Improvement Area Under Gardiner improvements, the East Gardiner Public Realm Strategy, and the The Bentway. With ongoing private development and capital works along the Gardiner, there is a need to unite new public-realm projects underneath and adjacent to the corridor, linking Parkdale to the West Don Lands, as well as creating north and south connections.

The Bentway Conservancy is developing an Under Gardiner Corridor Plan proposal for a strategic corridor framework for the under-Gardiner that will identify current and proposed projects, identify gaps in information, make recommendations on design cohesion and new programming, and gather disparate knowledge under one complete “umbrella”. The Bentway

Conservancy is leading consultations with various public and private stakeholders pursuing new development projects under the Gardiner Expressway, as well as properties with key adjacencies. This Motion asks staff to consider which aspects of the proposal are aligned with City plans, policies and programs, as well as options for implementation.

In addition, increased use and programming of under Gardiner spaces requires coordination with operation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure such as scheduling of annual and other repairs. A framework to optimize Gardiner maintenance protocols with The Bentway's programming could be applied to the emerging network of public spaces planned for the Gardiner corridor and other areas.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM24.18