

City Council**Notice of Motion**

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|--|--|---------|
| MM30.12 | ACTION | | | Ward: 5 |
|---------|--------|--|--|---------|

Supporting the Opportunity for a Post-Secondary Institution in Mount Dennis - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council direct CreateTO, in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, in partnership with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to identify City-owned, other publicly-owned and privately-owned land in the Mount Dennis area that would be suitable for a post-secondary campus and report back in the 4th quarter of 2021 with potential locations.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to continue to engage post-secondary institutions both within Toronto on the creation of a post-secondary campus or presence in the Mount Dennis area, with engagement to include the facilitation of focus groups and/or brainstorming sessions with interested institutions as appropriate.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to explore with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities what the prospects, process and timelines are for the development of any new post-secondary campuses in Toronto and to advise the Ministry of work being undertaken to identify potential suitable sites for a campus or presence in the Mount Dennis area.

Summary

The Mount Dennis area of Toronto, near the intersection of Weston Road and Eglinton Avenue West, will soon be home to one of the largest transit hubs in the City, second only to Union Station. Mount Dennis Station will connect the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit, Toronto Transit Commission buses, UP Express, and GO Transit's Kitchener Line all in one location.

Building on the significant transit infrastructure investment in the immediate vicinity, Economic Development and Culture completed an economic development strategy for the Mount Dennis Area. The study recommended a range of actions the City should undertake or support to accelerate business investment, job creation and a vibrant creative sector in the area. As part of the strategy, the Economic Development and Culture study recommended that efforts be made to attract a significant post-secondary facility to the Mount Dennis area.

Economic Development and Culture staff, with the support of CreateTO, have been conducting preliminary work around the campus/post-secondary facility concept. In the fall of 2020, Economic Development and Culture wrote to the heads of all public post-secondary institutions based in Toronto to gauge initial interest in a potential campus opportunity in the Mount Dennis area. Since then, meetings have been held with a number of post-secondary institutions to explore opportunities. A number of meetings have also been held with the Mount Dennis ecoCampus Development Planning Group, made up of local elected officials and community representatives, all working toward the common goal of attracting a post-secondary campus to Mount Dennis.

There has been long-standing interest in this community for a post-secondary institution. The Economic Development and Culture's study revealed that the Mount Dennis area is one of, if not the most underserved area in the City for access to post-secondary education, with no institution within a 5 kilometre radius. With the transit infrastructure investment in Mount Dennis, this part of the City will be easily accessible by all forms of transit, and would be an ideal location for a post-secondary campus.

Background Information (City Council)

Revised Member Motion MM30.12

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-164654.pdf>