



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM31.5	ACTION			Ward: All
--------	--------	--	--	-----------

Opening the King-Liberty Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

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

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services, to expedite allowing public access across the King-Liberty Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge, including considering phased opening options.

Summary

The King-Liberty Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge is in the final stages of construction, and will be an important new link between Liberty Village and areas to the north of the Metrolinx rail corridor. Travel distances will be much shorter for pedestrians and cyclists between destinations such as the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Queen Street West, and Trinity Bellwoods Park to the north, and Liberty Village and Exhibition Place to the south.

Regrettably, the project has been affected by multiple delays that continue to postpone the expected opening of the bridge. Hoisting the bridge span into place needed to be coordinated with Metrolinx work, which took place in Fall 2019. It was hoped then that the bridge would open to the public in Spring 2020. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening date has been revised later on multiple occasions. Stringent COVID-19 safety protocols, disrupted international supply chains, and labour shortages have played a part in slowing the work.

At this time, City staff have advised the public that the contractor is unable to provide any firm date for completion until these issues improve.

As we return to warmer weather, it is becoming even more important to open the new bridge without further delay. It is a much more direct connection for essential workers to reach the King streetcar and Exhibition GO station, and improves access for thousands of residents to businesses offering takeout and groceries, and green spaces including Trinity Bellwoods Park.

We need to take the necessary steps to expedite safe public access across the new bridge, and any non-critical work should be completed at a later time if this allows for an earlier opening date.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM31.5