



July 14, 2021

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Marilyn Toft

**RE: MM35.4 Completing The Missing Link and Building the East Toronto Railpath - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy (Ward 10, 11)**

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council,

This is to express our strong support for the Members Motion to move forward with this exciting project to convert a disused rail line and bridge to an active transportation corridor in the Don Valley. This will connect and expand the City's trail system, dramatically expanding recreational opportunities for Torontonians, provide an opportunity to memorialize the historic railway story of Toronto, realise part of the Don Valley Park vision, and create a new tourism magnet for Toronto.

The West Toronto Railpath and the Don Mills Trail serve as local models for how rail to trail conversions can provide low cost sustainable recreational opportunities provided other orders of government are willing to cooperate, and providing we (and they) are willing to make the upfront investment. The East Toronto Railpath project is extraordinarily significant as a "place-keeping" opportunity, and we urge City Council to recognize the opportunities therein for Indigenous partnership.

We note a couple of possible "flies in the ointment" that the City needs to pay attention to as this project proceeds:

- The route (undefined) of the VIA RAIL High Frequency Rail Toronto to Ottawa via Peterborough;
- The site of the Metrolinx Don Valley Train Layover Facility north of the Bloor Viaduct (for which project FoNTRA has requested a federal environmental assessment be conducted).

Finally, we acknowledge and commend the work of Sean Marshall (with the support of Chris Fraser) who have created the walkway story map that begins to describe the Missing Link – and the potential of the East Toronto Railpath.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/054f75fd35594e6591861121a715cbb0>

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Chris Murray, City Manager  
Tracey Cook, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services  
Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division  
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Janie Romoff, Executive Director, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.