

July 13, 2021

TO: Toronto City Council

RE: Requesting the Auditor General Review the Wellington Street East Construction for Effective Coordination and Communication

AGENDA ITEM: MM35.17

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Auditor General to consider including an audit of the construction and utility work on Wellington Street East in her 2022 Work Plan on the following matters regarding work on Wellington Street East between Yonge Street and Church Street:
 - a. factors which led to delays on Wellington Street East that have created over five years of utility and construction activity;
 - b. improvements to the process and work that could have mitigated delays; and
 - c. recommendations to improve utility and construction management to ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of future streetscape work in the City of Toronto.
2. City Council direct the Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services and the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to the September 14, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on the following matters regarding work on Wellington Street East between Yonge Street and Church Street:
 - a. outstanding work to complete on Wellington Street East, including a timeline for resolution for individual pieces of work; and
 - b. potential options to accelerate outstanding work ahead of June 2022.

Dear Members of Toronto City Council:

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) is a not-for-profit community organization incorporated in 1982, which represents the interests of 30,000+ people who live in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

SLNA is in full support of both of the above recommendations. By evidence, there is a significant weakness in the current management and coordination process for large interdependent infrastructure projects. Nowhere is this clearer than in the complete failure to bring the Wellington Street reconstruction project to completion in a timely and cost effective manner. Delays denominated not in months but in years have turned the subject section of Wellington Street into a perennial construction site, and have cost the city substantial additional monies.

Notable in a recent "communication" meeting between the City and the SLNA was the complete absence of accountability for the overall project, and the complete lack of any sense of urgency surrounding its completion. We are reliably informed that other Councillors have similar horror

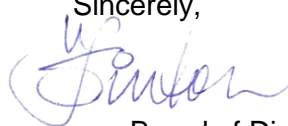
stories regarding comparable projects in other neighbourhoods throughout the City. It is time we insist that something be done!

In addition to the specific requests itemized in the motion, SLNA requests an accounting of the additional costs of the many stops, starts and delays on this project. This is a critical measure of the potential cost savings that can be realized through process improvements.

City building is an intricate, interdependent and multi-faceted challenge; one that you as Council Members rise to every day. This is an opportunity to wrestle this longstanding problem to the ground. It starts with objective and constructive criticism, which this Motion will provide, coupled with the determination to act decisively on the recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of this endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Linton", is written over the typed name.

p.p. Board of Directors
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Members of City Council:

Mayor John Tory

Councillors:

Paul Ainslie

Shelley Carroll

Joe Cressy

Michael Ford

Cynthia Lai

Josh Matlow

Frances Nunziata

Anthony Perruzza

Kristyn Wong-Tam

Ana Bailão

Mike Colle

John Filion

Mark Grimes

Mike Layton

Jennifer McKelvie

James Pasternak

Jaye Robinson

Brad Bradford

Gary Crawford

Paula Fletcher

Stephen Holyday

Nick Mantas

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SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. S. Fishleigh

Ms. S. McMillan

Ms. G. Siciliano

Ms. R. Tilson

Mr. S. Linton

Ms. D. Patterson

Ms. T. Tenenbaum