



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Subject: Comments for EX9.14 Executive Committee Meeting on October 31, 2023

Re: Advancing Waterfront East Light Rail Transit

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Executive Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association (GWNA) to express our ongoing strong support for the proposed Waterfront East Light Rail Transit project.

We are supportive of the staff report recommendation to advance the planning work to the 60% design stage and complete supporting technical, planning and coordination activities. Please authorize funding for this work.

Given the decades long history of study around waterfront transit expansion, we strongly urge that City Council take further measures to ensure that we do not lose more precious time. We strongly encourage accelerating the timelines, if at all possible, as you work to secure funding for the overall project construction phases.

Our area residents love the exciting waterfront revitalization initiatives and new developments at our doorstep, including Promontory Park on Villiers Island, new commercial employment spaces such as T3 Bayside, and the new world class Quayside. We are pleased to be able to share the much-needed public outdoor recreation spaces with the rest of Toronto, however, we are growing ever more concerned with the increasing traffic congestion choking our pedestrian-friendly neighborhood as residents from other areas are forced to resort to driving their cars to reach Toronto's wonderful emerging public waterfront.

With the tri-partite government investment in port lands flood protection progressing on schedule to unlock more public recreation space and new housing construction, amplified by dramatically increased density coming with the updated Villiers Island Precinct Plan, including desperately needed affordable housing, it is vital to also accelerate planning for the Waterfront East LRT. We firmly believe that transit is critical to delivering on the promises, and realizing the economic and societal benefits, of waterfront initiatives in East Bayfront, Quayside, and the Port Lands. Delivering much needed transit is also key to keeping the Distillery District and West Don Lands livable, walkable, and bikeable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards
Neil Betteridge
Vice President
Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association