

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport - Runway End Safety Areas: Supplementary Report

Date: October 8, 2024

To: City Council

From: Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services

Wards: 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

As noted in the September 27, 2024 report from the Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services, evaluation of the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA) - Runway End Safety Areas (RESA) was informed by an independent City-led consultation.

This supplementary report transmits the findings of a public survey, which was conducted from Friday, September 13, 2024 to Thursday, September 26, 2024 (14 days). In total, there were 2,921 responses to the survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On April 1, 2014, City Council adopted item 2014.EX40.1 - Request to Amend the Tripartite Agreement for Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. Among other things, it authorized the Deputy City Manager to negotiate with the Toronto Port Authority and Transport Canada on a phased framework for managing growth at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2014.EX40.1>

COMMENTS

A summary of the 2,921 responses to the public survey, which was open from Friday, September 13, 2024 to Thursday, September 26, 2024 (14 days) is provided as Attachment 1 to this report. The summary report was completed by Third Party Public, a Toronto-based public engagement organization.

The public survey was complementary to an in-person public meeting which was held on September 24, 2024. Third Party Public's report on the public meeting was attached to the September 27, 2024 staff report from the Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services. The survey results repeated many themes from the public meeting. When compared to the feedback shared at the public meeting, the online survey responses included many more voices advocating for the importance of protecting Hanlan's Point beach as a safe, culturally significant, queer space in Toronto, as well as many more voices supportive of the island airport.

As with the public meeting, the survey asked two questions.

The first question was, "What do you see as the top 1-2 factors for the City of Toronto to consider when reviewing Runway End Safety Area options? Why?"

As further outlined in the summary in Attachment 1, survey respondents said the top factors to consider include: environment and health; impact on culturally significant queer space at Hanlan's Point; waterfront revitalization; safety and regulatory compliance; costs; accessibility of the island airport; economic impact; impact on water users and public access to the inner harbour; process, timing and consultation; the need for more park space in Toronto; and construction impacts.

The second question was, "In the coming months, the City of Toronto will be engaging with PortsToronto as it updates its plans for how the island airport will operate and function in the future. What kind of issues do you think should be considered during this discussion? What is your overall vision of Toronto's waterfront?"

As further outlined in the summary in Attachment 1, survey respondents said the issues that should be considered include: the importance of Hanlan's Point Beach; waterfront revitalization; identity and possible futures; environment, pollution and biodiversity; access to Toronto Island Park; resident and infrastructure impacts; convenience, connectivity, relationship to Pearson and need for the airport; noise; marine access and use; economic impacts and value; safety; cost; and health.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Summary Report on Results of Online Survey, September 13-26, 2024