



October 9, 2024

City Clerk's Office  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: EX17.5 - Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport - Runway End Safety Areas

Dear Mayor and City Council,

City Council's consideration of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport's Runway End Safety Areas is a critical moment in time that defines our commitment to the future of our City, and it matters to all of Toronto's neighbourhoods. There is a lack of Council leadership on this front, and it is casting a shadow on the City and pitting communities against each other.

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is critical infrastructure of national importance. Over two million passengers a year and countless Toronto businesses rely on the airport to connect abroad for commerce, trade, tourism, culture, and knowledge exchange. Companies around the world are seeking stability and reliable amenities like the airport in their decisions to locate and invest in cities like Toronto. This means direct jobs at the airport, and indirect jobs in the City; all vital to our economy and growth.

I strongly oppose the Mayor and Executive Committee's decision to not extend the Tripartite agreement which hinders the ability of the airport to finance the runway safety extension. Without long term certainty of financing, the future existence of the airport is at risk. This is a failure to citizens, businesses, and the airport's employees. This a betrayal to businesses that already invested in our city because of the airport.

I support all three extension proposals from the airport that improve safety, improve operations, or reduce noise. These are positive changes, and Council should support the airport in selecting the best option at a cost that makes sense. City Council should be reducing barriers and expediting the process to making these plans a reality just as we do for other business development proposals under the Gold Star Application program.

The arguments against the future of the airport are both weak and selfish, and overrepresent special interests. Supporting them is illogical, but politically expedient for some, and they will come at great cost for the rest of the City for a long time. Some aspire to erase the airport after 80 years, in favour of making the City's largest park even bigger. The few that this purpose serves does not outweigh the many that rely on the airport today.

It galling to choose the objections of a small group from downtown over hundreds of thousands of citizens in Etobicoke, York, North York, Toronto and beyond who already tolerate Pearson Airport's aircraft noise at all hours of the day and night. The callous assumption that these communities should accept hundreds of flights more a day is irresponsible and is indicative of Council's double standard that is contributing to a City that is breaking apart before our eyes.

I invite the Mayor and Council to join me in speaking to the residents living under the two flight paths in Etobicoke Centre about the impacts of noise to their health and ability to sleep, and how they feel about moving flights from downtown and over the lake to above homes in other communities.

Page 16 of staff report states that the City's role is focussed on a review runway extension options. Council's role is not to sabotage the future of the airport, or to push flights to another facility. Council needs vision and leadership to overcome the chatter from the detractors, and make intentional decisions about our future prosperity and the certainty of critical infrastructure. All Torontonians are watching us, and so is the world.

Regards,

Stephen Holyday  
Councillor - Ward 2  
Etobicoke Centre