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To: Toronto City Council

Re: EX19.6 - Assessment of Scarborough Rapid Transit Adaptive Reuse and Next Steps

In the discussion of this item at Executive Committee, the design charrette that DIAC is pulling together regarding was briefly discussed and received with enthusiasm. We are currently planning to undertake this charrette on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus. Below is additional information. Please contact me if you have any questions.

DIAC Charrette

Re-Purposing the Scarborough Rail Lands & Related Properties

DIAC (Design Industry Advisory Committee) in collaboration with the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTS) Institute for Inclusive Economies & Sustainable Livelihoods (IIESL) is conducting a multi-stakeholder charrette to develop conceptual frameworks for re-purposing the Scarborough rail lands and related properties. The charrette will inform a broader study being undertaken by UTS.

Charrette Intent:

- Design Brief is under development and being shaped in collaboration with UTS. The focus of the charrette will be on what is possible. The goal is to generate sufficient interest to pursue funding for a more comprehensive research project(s) to evaluate potential uses for development.
- Main themes for the event have been discussed and include:
Transportation (includes active and BRT), Recreation, Economic Development, Community & Culture, “Iconic Project” (i.e. tourism, identity)
- Cross-Cutting Themes – these apply to each of the main themes and include
Environmental/Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Inclusion, Health & Wellness and
Seasonality (4 season use)
- The charrette has been scheduled for January 28, 2025 to feed into to UTS’s own initiative. The charrette will to be held at UT Scarborough.

Charrette Structure:

- This will be a full day event with 40-50 participant contributors (5 breakout groups for the charrette) including potential speakers, advisors, community groups, UTS undergraduate students, funders related to the key themes and technical experts from the design community.

For examples of other charrettes DIAC has undertaken - <https://www.diac.on.ca/design-charettes>

For more information on the Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC) - <https://www.diac.on.ca/about-the-design-industry-advisory-committee>