

July 4, 2024



Economic and Community Development Committee

Our Coalition formed in 2021 to advocate for a Community Benefits Agreements to be part of the Ontario Line project and to help identify and amplify community priorities for the massive amount of development pressure that the neighbourhood is facing. We have been closely following the development of the Downtown East Action Plan and would like to thank the Economic and Community Development Committee and City Staff for their hard work in creating the new updated plan.

While the new plan addresses many challenges in the Downtown East, we are particularly interested in initiatives like the Dundas Sherbourne Neighbourhood Revitalization Plan, which we believe directly addresses some of the underlying causes for the issues experienced by so many in Moss Park. We are also encouraged to hear that the potential redevelopment of Toronto Community Housing properties in Moss Park will be guided by a Community Development Plan. It is essential that local residents and community members' needs and wishes are central to the redevelopment process.

One of the challenges facing the Moss Park community is the lack of formal neighbourhood organizations, such as a residents association. We recognize this can create barriers in allowing local residents to influence development in their neighbourhood. In response to this, our Coalition will soon be launching our Empower Moss Park campaign to give a platform for local residents to work together to form a common vision for the future of their neighbourhood. We hope to co-develop a list of development priorities and strategies with local residents and stakeholders to inform future public and private developments in the area. Will be launching this project this July at the Moss Park Summer Festival, and we are happy to share our results with the City.

We would also like the City to consider bringing in the Community Benefits Office into early conversations about the Dundas Sherbourne Neighbourhood Revitalization Plan. This would help to ensure that we maximize the employment and procurement opportunities that will be available to local Moss Park residents and businesses, and allow for true co-development of this important project. A Community Benefits Agreement would also signal to the Moss Park community that they will be long-term partners in the life of the project, not simply invited to attend brief consultations or info sessions.

We are pleased to see that the updates to the Downtown East Action Plan are putting a spotlight on the Moss Park neighbourhood, and we are looking forward to seeing this plan be put into action. We are here to partner with you to implement meaningful strategies that work to link social and economic development in Moss Park in ways that centre the needs and wants of current neighbourhood residents through the various plans mentioned in this letter. Regards,

David Anderson,

Moss Park Coalition