



January 29, 2024

Toronto City Hall  
Executive Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

-Via Email-

RE: EX11.8 - RapidTO: Surface Transit Network Plan

Dear Mayor Chow and Executive Committee Members,

**We are writing as the DUKE Heights BIA, representing over 2500 businesses, employing over 32,000 people, in support of the request that the Committee expedite a study for improved bus service on Steeles Avenue West as part of RapidTO.** Steeles Avenue West between Yonge Street and Pioneer Village Station was identified as a top-five priority bus route as early as 2020, but there has been no material progress since. The report before you now proposes that the highest priority sections of Steeles will only be considered at a later and undetermined date, despite it being the third slowest bus route in Toronto at peak rush hour and serving tens of thousands of riders every day.

All of us are invested in the future of our communities and transit improvements are an essential part of our long-term success. Our employers and employees need better transit, especially as new housing and economic growth is set to take place along Steeles in the next few years. Reliable and effective public transit will not only provide equitable and more environmentally sustainable options for the community, but it will also lay the groundwork for future growth to be more transit-oriented, preventing even further congestion that will otherwise come with new homes, new jobs, and other investments in the community.

We hope that the Executive Committee and City Council will realize the original promise of RapidTO, add Steeles Avenue West to the list of short-term priority studies, and begin this work within 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lew Pliamm".

Dr. Lew Pliamm  
Chair, DUKE Heights BIA