



Fort York Neighbourhood Association

March 20, 2024

ATTN: Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Toronto
RE: **March 27, 2024 endorsement of Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan**

I am writing to express my support of the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan (PRP), a transformative initiative that establishes shared principles and identifies opportunities that will help to redefine the identity, access and experience of Toronto's Central Waterfront.

Fort York Neighbourhood Association strives to improve the quality of life for residents and encourages a sense of pride in our community. The borders of our association are Fleet Street, Fort York Boulevard and Bathurst Street in downtown Toronto.

Fort York Neighbourhood Association has had a strong partnership with the Bentway, since its creation in 2018. The Bentway collaborates regularly with FYNA to include us in their planning for cultural, artistic and recreational programming in downtown Toronto. The Bentway has contributed enormously to the quality of life for residents in Fort York and neighbouring communities, offering a "backyard-type" space for condo-dwelling residents downtown.

Having followed the evolution of the Under Gardiner PRP, I am inspired by its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community-centric design. The plan details a comprehensive vision for repurposing the underutilized spaces beneath the Gardiner Expressway into a cohesive, active corridor of dynamic, inclusive, and environmentally responsive public spaces. As Toronto continues to densify, this plan responds to the growing demands of communities along the corridor and ensures that we are collectively creating affordable, liveable, and accessible neighbourhoods across the waterfront.

The PRP's guiding principles, centered on safety, ecological stewardship, connectivity, active transportation and cultural enrichment, resonate deeply with Fort York Neighbourhood Association. As a downtown neighbourhood association, representing primarily condo-dwelling residents, FYNA is excited for the opportunity to unlock more public space under the Gardiner and create safe, accessible connections between Fort York and other parts of the downtown core.



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Furthermore, the process of crafting the PRP's has been rooted in stakeholder and community engagement. Through extensive consultations and collaborative partnerships, the process has made room for local voices to inform the plan every step of the way.

As our city and the waterfront continue to evolve, it is imperative that we embrace forward-thinking initiatives like the PRP.

I urge the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to lend their full support to the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan and champion its implementation. Together, we have an opportunity to create a legacy of enduring impact for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Poon'.

Jennifer Poon
Executive member
Fort York Neighbourhood Association
fortyorkneighbourhood@gmail.com
416-908-6244