



March 25th, 2024

Attn: Infrastructure and Environment Committee City of Toronto

Re: Infrastructure and Environment Committee - Meeting 12

Meeting Date and time: March 27, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Agenda Item: Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan

On behalf of Pacific Reach Properties Development (PRPD), Owner Representative of buildings located at 350-370-390-396 Queens Quay West, I am writing to express our 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.

As Director of Planning and Development at PRPD, I can attest to the importance of this work. We are heavily invested on renovation, development and further intensification of our site located between Rees Street and Spadina Avenue and are immediate west neighbor of Rees Street Park. Our site intersect with Gardiner and Lake Shore Boulevard for full length of its northern property line which is in excess of 200 meter.

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 which is better than anything that was or is currently existing. 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, livable, and accessible neighbourhood across the waterfront.

The PRP's guiding principles, centered on safety, ecological stewardship, connectivity, active transportation and cultural enrichment, resonate deeply with our own development plan. We have moved from 502 rental units on the site that was built in 1987 to total of 857 units. We are working with City Planning to seek Council approval for next phase of the development that will provide close to additional 300 units on the site in housing choices on the site to the community and with that form of intensification it is important that PRP receive Council support.

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 continues 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,

Shehzad Somji B.Engg. B.Comm. M.B.A.

Director, Planning and Development, Pacific Reach Properties Development

D: 604-514-6682 | C: 604-614-0700 | F: 604-514-6699

2A-20363 65 Avenue | Langley BC | V2Y 3E3