



**RE.**

*Support for IE12.5  
Under Gardiner  
Public Realm Plan*

**Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Members of the Committee,**

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan presented at this meeting and developed by the City of Toronto and The Bentway in consultation with area stakeholders, including our Waterfront Business Improvement Area (WBIA).

**TO.**

*Chair, Deputy Mayor  
Jennifer McKelvie, and  
Members of the  
Infrastructure and  
Environment Committee*

Overall, this plan has the potential to be a transformative initiative that will help enhance Toronto's draw as a premier destination city. A core objective for our organization in the last few years has been to improve the 'north-south connections to the waterfront.' As the waterfront has developed quickly as a destination, we want to ensure people getting here under the Gardiner Expressway feel safe and encounter a more welcoming environment that encourages them to cross over and visit the waterfront. As the area has added 20,000 residents and 20,000 workers since 2010, safety has become a major factor as well.

**DATE.**

25 March 2024

In 2019, our BIA developed the '[Waterfront ReConnect](#)' vision to improve the north-south connections' with a similar approach to The Bentway, which had just opened. That vision led to a pilot improvement at the Rees Street underpass, and since then we also worked directly with The Bentway, the City of Toronto, and the Downtown West BIA to enhance the Simcoe and York Street underpasses with pilot improvements as well. We appreciate that this public realm plan will build on learnings and ideas from these earlier pilot projects to improve the 'north-south connections' long-term.



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Thank you and please contact me at [tkocur@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:tkocur@waterfrontbia.com) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Kocur,  
Executive Director,  
Waterfront BIA