

March 26, 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

Dear Members of the Committee,

The East Waterfront Community Association strongly supports the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan (PRP) in its entirety, particularly its Lake Shore Boulevard East component (Secondary Study Area). We believe this plan offers a groundbreaking opportunity to revitalize the waterfront and improve the experience of residents, businesses, and visitors to our community.

Our association has a deep interest in the success of this project and is committed to enhancing our neighbourhood's connectivity, safety, and livability. The PRP's focus on improved north-south connections aligns perfectly with our long-term goals of pedestrian and bicycle safety and security, peaceful enjoyment of the Lakefront, and family-friendly infrastructure. We've witnessed and participated in the East Waterfront's growth through our contributions to Community Liaison Committees, such as:

- the Gardiner Rehabilitation Community Liaison Committee,
- the Waterfront East Light Rail Transit Stakeholder Advisory Committee,
- the Quayside Stakeholder Advisor Committee, and
- the Keating Channel Pedestrian Bridge Community Liaison Committee.

We applaud the PRP's emphasis on:

- **Traffic Calming and Streetscape Improvements:** The plan's commitment to pedestrian safety, intersection improvements, and calming measures resonates deeply with our association's goals.
- **Sustainability and Stormwater Management:** Integrating smart stormwater management directly addresses ongoing concerns within our community about maintaining a healthy waterfront environment.
- **Collaboration and Coordination:** We've witnessed the positive outcomes of projects like the 12 Bonnycastle development pilot. The PRP's recognition of the importance of coordinating this project with other major waterfront initiatives reassures us that there will be a cohesive and effective implementation.

The PRP's emphasis on traffic calming features, intersection improvements, and the separation of cycling and pedestrian lanes will be essential to ensure the safety of our growing community.

We are particularly interested in the potential for stormwater management strategies, as sustainable solutions are vital for our waterfront's health. The PRP, particularly the focus on improving north-south connectivity and pedestrian safety in the Gardiner corridor, is critical to ensuring that our community remains livable and inviting as major developments in our community progress.

The East Waterfront Community Association recognizes the value of the ongoing pilot project at 12 Bonnycastle Street and the learnings it offers for the PRP's successful implementation. We see this as proof that the City is committed to a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to the environment, economy, and comfort.

We understand and support the need to carefully coordinate the Lake Shore Boulevard revitalization with the wider waterfront transformation plan. The East Waterfront Community Association is ready to actively engage in these multi-stakeholder initiatives to ensure the PRP's success. We believe it's essential to maintain a cohesive vision throughout the phases of this multi-year project.

The Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan has the potential to redefine our waterfront, make Toronto a leader in urban design, and achieve the City's ambitious targets of achieving net zero greenhouse emissions by 2040. The East Waterfront Community Association urges the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to champion this plan and make its timely and successful implementation a priority.

Sincerely,



Michael Bethke
Secretary,

EAST WATERFRONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

cc. Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik
Tom Davidson