

City Council

Notice of Motion

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| MM22.11 | ACTION | | | |
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Demanding Transparency and Value for Money: Requesting an Audit on the \$150 Million West Toronto Railpath Extension - by Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Auditor General to consider including an audit of the \$150 million West Toronto Railpath Extension in the Auditor General's 2025 Work Plan, including addressing the following matters:

- a. a breakdown of the due diligence process undertaken by the City of Toronto to find cost savings and efficiencies and ensure value for money;
- b. how this project was identified and prioritized for capital funding and requests for intergovernmental funding support;
- c. factors that led to the cost estimate increasing by at least \$74 million over the previous projection;
- d. details of the impact of Metrolinx administrative costs on the increased estimate; and
- e. an assessment of the City's process for evaluating the budget increase and recommendations for improvement.

Summary

On August 1, 2024, the City of Toronto issued a news release announcing an intergovernmental partnership to fund the extension of the West Toronto Railpath multi-use trail.

Under the funding agreement, the Government of Canada would provide \$23 million, while the City would contribute the remaining \$125.7 million. According to the release, the project would double the length of the 2.1 kilometre trail for a total project cost of \$148.7 million – or nearly \$75,000 per metre.

Understandably, the significant price tag captured the attention of Torontonians, the media, and many members of Council. The cost of the extension has raised questions about the City's

responsibilities, priorities, and evaluation of the use of valuable taxpayer dollars – and those questions merit answers.

At \$150 million, the two kilometre trail would cost double what it's costing to speed up the Gardiner Expressway rebuild by a year. With the same funding, two brand new community centres could be delivered for our communities. In fact, the cost has increased six-fold since 2016, when the extension project was budgeted at \$23 million.

The City has not made publicly available a detailed breakdown of the \$150 million cost estimate, and questions about the due diligence process have gone unanswered.

As a demonstration of transparency, this motion requests the City of Toronto's Auditor General to include a value for money assessment of the West Toronto Railpath Extension in the 2025 Work Plan.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM22.11