



October 8, 2024

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Sylwia Przewdziecki

RE: MM22.8 - Trains Not Tunnels - Alternatives to the 401 Tunnel - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council,

This is to express our strong support for Councilor Colle's Motion to have City Council request the Province of Ontario to consider the feasibility of a high speed rail system, instead of tunneling under Highway 401 running through the middle of Toronto. We completely agree with Councillor Colle that this proposal for a tunnel would be incredibly costly, disruptive and unlikely to fix the congestion woes currently experienced.

We also agree that the City of Toronto and other municipalities in the region will be better served by a reliable high speed rail system that would potentially connect cities like Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal – increasing the frequency of trains and significantly reducing travel times for Ontarians and reducing congestion. We also note that this solution by providing for relatively short haul service may reduce the need for inter-city air service of the type provided by Billy Bishop Airport.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services
Barbara Gray, General Manger, Transportation Services

David Stonehouse, Director, Waterfront Secretariat

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.