



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 27, 2025

Subject: Comments for EX20.10 Executive Committee Meeting on January 28, 2025

Re: Advancing Waterfront East Light Rail Transit

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Executive Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association (GWNA) to express our ongoing strong support for the proposed Waterfront East Light Rail Transit (WELRT) project.

We are supportive of the staff report recommendation to further advance the planning and design work on the segments of WELRT, and line up financial commitments for timely delivery. We encourage you to make it a key Council priority to allocate City capital funds, and secure funding contributions needed from other levels of government, for construction and delivery of WELRT.

Given the decades long history of study around waterfront transit expansion, we strongly urge that City Council take all possible measures to ensure that we do not lose more precious time. We strongly advocate for accelerating the timelines, if at all possible.

Our area residents love the exciting waterfront revitalization initiatives and new developments at our doorstep, including new parks on Ookwemin Minising, new commercial employment spaces such as T3 Bayside, and the new world class Quayside. We are pleased to be able to share the much-needed public outdoor recreation spaces with the rest of Toronto; however, we are growing ever more concerned with the increasing traffic congestion choking our pedestrian-friendly neighborhood as residents from other areas are forced to resort to driving their cars to reach Toronto's wonderful emerging eastern waterfront.

With the tri-partite government investment in port lands flood protection delivering more public recreation space this year, and unlocking new housing construction, amplified by dramatically increased density coming with the updated Villiers Island Precinct Plan, including desperately needed affordable housing, it is vital to not just accelerate more years of planning for the Waterfront East LRT, but to lock in commitments for phased project delivery over the next decade. We firmly believe that transit is critical to delivering on the promises, and realizing the economic and societal benefits, of waterfront initiatives in East Bayfront, Quayside, and the Port Lands. Transit is also essential for the East Bayfront, Quayside and Ookwemin Minising developments to support, rather than undermine, Toronto's TransformTO plans. Delivering much needed transit is also key to keeping the Distillery District and West Don Lands livable, walkable, and bikeable.

Regards,
Neil Betteridge
President
Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association