



**WATERFRONT
BIA**

RE.

*Support for EX20.10
Advancing the Waterfront
East Light Rail Transit,
and recommended
connectivity at Cherry
Street with Metrolinx and
Ontario Line plans*

TO.

*Mayor Olivia Chow
and Executive Committee*

DATE.

27 January 2025

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

The Waterfront Business Improvement Area (WBIA) is writing in strong support of the City of Toronto, TTC and Waterfront Toronto's advancement of design, funding and construction of the Waterfront East LRT (WELRT). As emphasized in a [joint statement from more than 50 waterfront leaders and stakeholders last year](#), the WELRT will help create a more affordable, sustainable, and prosperous city, province and country – 20,000 residents and 20,000 jobs have already been added in the area since 2010, and the Staff Report indicates at least 100,000 more will follow with the WELRT.

We are pleased to see significant elements of WELRT plans moving forward, including planned [interim dedicated bus lane options](#). With the project not yet eligible for full funding, we appreciate direction in the report to work closely with tri-level government partners and expand on the December Executive Committee's item, *EX19.2 Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization*. We are also encouraged by mention of coordination for the project with Metrolinx and its GO Expansion Program and the Hydro One Cherry Street Bridge (HONI Bridge). Acceleration and coordination of the Cherry Street Bridge/Tunnel construction could assist with elements of the Waterfront LRT's planned Cherry Street connection being in place sooner. The WBIA strongly encourages further coordination of the WELRT's Cherry Street alignment with Metrolinx related to north-south connectivity and wayfinding in coordination with the new Ontario Line subway stations also being built. We also ask planning teams' to incorporate ideas and solutions highlighted in The Bentway and City of Toronto's Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan, as well as the BIA's [Waterfront Retail Review](#).

The Waterfront BIA will be available to assist with coordinating and encouraging engagement with eastern waterfront stakeholders and businesses on both items mentioned above – implementation of Queens Quay East interim bus lane solutions soon, as well as ways to improve north-south connectivity and area wayfinding improvements in this area with the Ontario Line station also being built nearby.



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Thank you and please contact me at tkocur@waterfrontbia.com if our BIA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Kocur, Executive Director
Waterfront BIA

cc: Waterfront Toronto, Metrolinx, The Bentway