



May 12, 2025

Executive Committee of Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing on behalf of PortsToronto to provide some input and context on Motion 2025.EX23.1. I would first like to express our appreciation for the outreach and consultation conducted by City staff and note that our input has been reflected in the background report.

PortsToronto recognizes the importance of enhancing connectivity and active transportation options within the city. We appreciate the efforts made to engage with us and other stakeholders to ensure that the proposed initiatives consider the operational integrity of the Port of Toronto.

As highlighted in our previous correspondence dated March 19, 2025, the Port of Toronto serves as a crucial hub, facilitating the passage of approximately 150-180 cargo and cruise vessels annually through the Eastern Gap. It is essential to maintain the commercial shipping channels and ensure that any fixed infrastructure accommodates the uninterrupted flow of marine traffic. We are pleased to note that these considerations have been acknowledged in the background report.

We also appreciate the recognition of the engineering challenges associated with constructing a fixed link that meets the necessary height requirements to allow safe passage for vessels with varying air drafts. Analysis of the impact on Port operations should also include the ancillary facilities required with a fixed link such as parking.

Furthermore, we are encouraged by the acknowledgment of the potential economic repercussions and the need to balance active transportation goals with the operational needs of the Port. Curtailing economic activity in the Port will have major repercussions for the local economy impacting local residential and commercial construction, as well as winter road safety amongst other impacts.

The City of Toronto's background report also highlights the broader context of improving access to Toronto Island Park, which is a significant destination for residents and tourists alike. The report outlines various initiatives, such as the Toronto Island Master Plan, ferry fleet renewal, and water taxi capacity improvements, which align with the goals of enhancing connectivity and accessibility. The report noted that these initiatives would need to proceed regardless of a fixed link being contemplated over the Eastern Gap.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters and for considering our input throughout this process.

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Tel/Tél: 416.863.2000 | PortsToronto.com

PortsToronto owns and operates | PortsToronto possède et exploite :



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "RJ Steenstra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

RJ Steenstra MBA, AAE, IAP, ICD.D
President & CEO
PortsToronto

Cc: Jay Palega – City of Toronto
Michael Noble – City of Toronto