



OLIVIA CHOW
MAYOR

July 16, 2025

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: EX25.4 RapidTO: Transit Priority on Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street

First, I want to thank City Staff for bringing forward their report on creating RapidTO dedicated transit lanes on Dufferin and Bathurst Streets, south of Bloor, in time for the FIFA World Cup. We'll invite the world to our city and we need transit solutions in time to move hundreds of thousands of people to the games, the fan festival, and tourist destinations. The RapidTO lanes will help us reap economic benefits of the games.

While the lanes south of Bloor represent considerable progress since RapidTO was first introduced in 2019, I know that we can do more to help move the 75,000 transit riders that use Dufferin and Bathurst.

We need to make it easier to get around our city. While we've introduced a number of measures to reduce congestion, improving public transit so that it's faster and more convenient is the best way to unclog our roads. That's why I support dedicated bus and streetcar lanes. With the right service levels from the TTC, these lanes have the potential to transform how people get around our city.

My motion below asks staff to work with local councillors, residents, businesses and transit riders to find a path forward to extend RapidTO north along Dufferin and Bathurst. It also asks for creative interim traffic solutions for the FIFA World Cup, such as HOV bus lanes, rush hour needs, loading zones and delivery times for local businesses, pick up and drop-off areas, parking alternatives - whatever it takes to make faster transit service a reality.

Our goal is for the 75,000 people who take transit on Dufferin and Bathurst to have more reliable and faster service, while addressing the real concerns of the people and businesses impacted by changes to our roads.

The city-wide benefit of RapidTO is clear. With these lanes in place, the TTC estimates thousands of additional daily riders on these arterial roads - that means fewer cars and less traffic. We know the economic cost of congestion is staggering, and that's why the Toronto Region Board of Trade has expressed support for RapidTO. I am confident we can find a way forward to get Toronto moving.

Recommendations:

1. Direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with the Mayor's Office, local Councillors, residents, businesses and transit riders, to develop implementation plans, with due consideration of local needs, for the remaining RapidTO corridors north of Bloor Street West on Bathurst to Eglinton Ave W and Dufferin to Wilson Station, and report back alongside the evaluation of the RapidTO Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street southern projects.
2. Direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with the Mayor's Office, local Councillors, residents, businesses and transit riders to identify, and report to Executive Committee on interim transit priority measures that can be implemented for FWC26; including consideration of creative options such as rush hour parking prohibitions, time-of-day use, loading zones, HOV lanes, and best practices from other jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olivia Chow', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto