

April 7, 2025

Toronto City Hall 100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE20.8 Safety Barriers Along the Leaside Bridge – Feasibility Study Update (Ward 14, 15)

To Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

Established in Thorncliffe Park in the 1980s, the Leaside Towers Tenants Association (LTTA) is a volunteer, resident-led group that represents the 2,500 Torontonians residing at 85 and 95 Thorncliffe Park Drive on concerns relating to their rental apartment tenancies, as well as matters of broader importance to the Thorncliffe Park community.

The Millwood Overpass Bridge (Leaside Bridge) is a gateway into Thorncliffe Park. To the LTTA's knowledge, it is a high-risk location for suicide, increasing in the two decades since safety barriers were installed on the Bloor Viaduct in 2003.

The LTTA believes bridges must have safety barriers, citywide. But, especially in Thorncliffe Park, a neighbourhood that is defined by its valley geography and largely accessible only by its two bridges: Millwood, and Overlea. Too many tragedies have occurred already.

The LTTA participated in the City's public consultation called <u>Renewing Overlea Boulevard</u>, resulting in approval for safety barriers to be installed on the Overlea Bridge. We look forward to participating in public consultations for the Millwood Bridge.

The LTTA recommends:

The Infrastructure and Environment Committee to receive this report for information, and for City Council to approve approximately \$500,000 in funding as part of the Transportation Services 2026-2035 Capital Budget for preliminary design work, including public consultation.

Thank you,

Jason Ash

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Co-chair, Leaside Towers Tenants Association

LEASIDE TOWERS TENANTS ASSOCIATION
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