

July 10, 2025

**TO:**

Councillor Fletcher  
Chair, Infrastructure and Environment  
Committee

**FROM:**

Downtown Toronto BIAs

**BLOOR**YORKVILLE



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**RE: SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING A CHIEF CONGESTION OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF TORONTO**

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Dear Councillor Fletcher and the Infrastructure and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of our Downtown Toronto Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), we are writing to express our support for **Item IE23.4 – the establishment of a Chief Congestion Officer and Executive Director, Strategic Capital Coordination** to help reduce congestion caused by construction in the city.

Overlapping higher-order transit expansion, essential infrastructure renewal, and private-sector construction are all vital to the long-term success of our city. At the same time, these overlapping activities create increasing pressures on the downtown right-of-way, causing significant gridlock in the downtown core and beyond. Strategic oversight through these proposed roles will help ensure that Toronto's downtown can continue to function efficiently and remain accessible throughout this period of growth.

The Downtown BIAs have previously advocated in support of initiatives aimed at better coordination of the right-of-way and improving mobility in the city. We have previously endorsed the City's Congestion Management Plans and have been strong advocates for expanding the Traffic Agent Program, which continues to play a valuable role in managing traffic flow and safety in high-traffic areas.

We welcome this next step in the City's evolving approach to congestion management and see strong potential for these new leadership positions to strengthen capital planning, foster meaningful engagement with the community and business groups like ours, enhance cross-divisional coordination, and ensure consistent implementation of best practices for construction impact mitigation. As this work moves forward, we encourage ongoing engagement with our Downtown BIAs group, the Toronto Association of BIA's (TABIA) and the Economic Development & Culture Division's BIA Office to further leverage the insights and role of BIAs in supporting the success of this program.

Thank you to City staff and the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for your ongoing commitment to improving mobility across Toronto. We look forward to continued collaboration as these roles are established.

To connect with our group, please contact Oliver Hierlihy at [oliver@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:oliver@waterfrontbia.com)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Al Smith*  
Executive Director  
**Old Town Toronto BIA**

*Valentine Lovekin*  
*Chair*  
**Bloor-Yorkville BIA**

*Amy Harrell*  
Executive Director  
**Toronto Financial District BIA**

*Janice Solomon*  
Executive Director  
**Toronto Downtown West BIA**

*Pauline Larsen*  
Executive Director  
and Chief Operating Officer  
**Downtown Yonge BIA**

*Tim Kocur*  
Executive Director  
**The Waterfront BIA**

cc: Paul Johnson, City Manager  
Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services  
Barbara Grey, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Judy Tse, Director Strategic Capital Coordination Office