



NOTICE OF MOTION

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds for the Gardiner Public Realm Plan Strachan Gate Connection Design

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

SUMMARY:

Building on the success of The Bentway, the Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan was developed and approved by Toronto City Council in April 2024 (<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.IE12.5>). The plan sets out a long-term vision for the entire 7km elevated Gardiner corridor, establishing new standards for safety, identity, amenity and ecology, and informing future planning of the public realm from Dufferin Street to the Don Valley Parkway.

The Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan identified a range of site-specific projects for future study, including the "Strachan Gate Connection", which is a key junction between the upcoming Ontario Line Exhibition Place Station and major trip-generating destinations such as the Fort York Historic Site, The Bentway and the broader Exhibition Place campus. This is aligned with recommendations from the Master Plan Phase 1 Proposals Report for Exhibition Place from May 2020 (<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.te18.42>) that identifies under-Gardiner enhancements at Strachan Avenue as an extension of the Bentway for public use and a new important gateway to Exhibition Place from the broader surroundings.

This phase will guide the transformation of public realm beneath and adjacent to the Gardiner Expressway between Strachan Avenue and Manitoba Drive. Funding in this motion will support advancement to 30% design, allowing this planning to keep pace with the planned rehabilitation of the Gardiner and Metrolinx work in the area.

City staff, including Transportation Services, Economic Development & Culture, Waterfront Secretariat, Parks and Recreation, and other divisions, will continue to work with The Bentway, Exhibition Place, Metrolinx, Fort York, TTC, and other stakeholders to advance this work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council approve an increase, on a one-time basis, of the 2025 Approved Capital Budget for the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative, by \$ \$273,000 gross, \$0 net with cash flows of \$140,000 in 2025 and \$133,000 in 2026, for implementation of the Strachan Gate Connection fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits collected from 335, 355 King Street West and 119 Blue Jays Way (source account number XR3026-3701332). Funds were collected for community benefits as per the by-law.
2. City Council authorize the Director, Waterfront Secretariat, to execute, on behalf of the City, a Delivery Agreement with the Bentway Conservancy for the Strachan Gate Connection, to a maximum of \$273,000, on terms and conditions acceptable to the Director, Waterfront Secretariat, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

September 29, 2025