From: <u>Daniel Tate</u>
To: <u>councilmeeting</u>

Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.MM30.10 on May 21, 2025 City Council

Date: May 22, 2025 12:29:16 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u> <u>image002.png</u>

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting on item 2025.MM30.10, Under Gardiner Public Realm Plan - Multi-Use Trail Study Delivery Agreement - by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Council,

I would like to express my support for this motion.

Having travelled extensively around the world, I've witnessed firsthand how some of the greatest cities reimagine the space beneath their bridge networks. In Tokyo, for example, vibrant street art galleries and micro-vendors thrive in these underutilized zones—some selling \$5 sushi to busy commuters in spaces once overlooked. In Vienna, public basketball courts, pedestrian trails, and striking art installations activate what would otherwise be forgotten infrastructure.

These are the kinds of ideas that elevate ordinary cities into global cities.

And right here in Toronto, we already have a model to emulate: *The Bentway*. What was once a desolate patch beneath the Gardiner has been transformed into a dynamic cultural artery—hosting everything from art exhibitions and concerts to skating trails and night markets. It's a textbook case of bold, innovative urban renewal.

We must continue this momentum. By thinking creatively about the untapped lands beneath the Gardiner, we can create public spaces that are not only functional but culturally alive—making Toronto not just livable, but remarkable.

Thank you,

--Daniel Tate











Daniel Tate Executive Director

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