



June 4, 2025

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: Location of Hoverlink terminal adjacent to the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York)

Summary

There is a proposal by Hoverlink Ontario, a private entity, to operate a rapid hovercraft transit service between Toronto and St. Catharines in the Niagara region. The proposed 30-minute service is to start in Spring 2027, at the earliest.

The proposed Toronto landing pad and passenger waiting area would be located in Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York on the south side of the western channel at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

Hoverlink has entered into an agreement with PortsToronto. Passengers would use the Billy Bishop Airport tunnel or ferry to access the mainland and local transportation options in Bathurst Quay.

There has not been a formal submission of information and technical reports to the City, however, City staff have been advised by Hoverlink Ontario that:

- Storage and servicing of the hovercraft vessels would take place at the business's St. Catharines location;
- Each hovercraft vessel can accommodate up to 180 passengers;
- The vessels do not carry vehicles but would accommodate bicycles and luggage;
- Hovercrafts operate at 1m above the water's surface;
- The fan technology on the proposed vessels has noise levels that vary with speed but are 67 decibels at 8 knots at 50m offshore; and
- Additional public and stakeholder consultation will occur as a part of next steps.

I am recommending City staff undertake, with internal resources, due diligence on the local impacts that will be outlined in the information and technical reports that the proponents will eventually be providing to the City.



Recommendation:

1. That Toronto East York Community Council direct the Director, Waterfront Secretariat, in consultation with Waterfront Toronto, report back to the Toronto East York Community Council in Q1 2026 on the results of project related technical studies, to be provided by Hoverlink Ontario and/or PortsToronto, including but not limited to the following local impacts:
 - a. A transportation plan, that includes information on impact to the Bathurst Quay neighbourhood, traffic safety, transit connectivity and access to active transportation infrastructure;
 - b. Independent noise and air quality studies, and proposed mitigation measures;
 - c. Marine studies, including impacts on water-based recreation, water quality, wave action erosion and the natural environment in the Western Channel and Inner Harbour;
 - d. Details of the proposed landing pad and associated structures at the docking location and their impacts on the Western Channel and the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood;
 - e. Economic impact studies, including the potential contribution of this proposal to the waterfront's visitor economy; and
 - f. Compatibility with relevant waterfront revitalization plans and strategies, including the 2020 Marine Use Strategy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Malik
Ward 10, Spadina Fort-York