



## REPORT FOR ACTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

### SkyPod Gondola Aerial Tramway System

**Date:** September 30, 2025

**To:** Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

**From:** Director, Guest and Site Operations

**Wards:** All

#### REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the City.

#### SUMMARY

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This report recommends the Toronto Zoo partner with EcoTrek Adventure Group on the installation of a gondola aerial tramway, known as the SkyPod; to open to guests in 2027. A Gondola operation is outlined in Section 6.2 of the Master Plan under "Project specific Funding Framework".

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Director, Guest & Site Operations, Toronto Zoo recommends that:

- 1) The Toronto Zoo Board of Management authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to negotiate and execute a commercial agreement, including an agreement that provides for revenue sharing, as appropriate with the EcoTrek Adventure Group or their authorized representative for the installation and operation of the SkyPod for a period of up to 20 years, subject to securing any required licenses or lease from the City of Toronto to permit any required infrastructure installations, all on terms acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
- 2) The Toronto Zoo Board of Management direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential as it contains information about a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the City.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The financial impacts and related agreement terms are described in Confidential Attachment 1.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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EcoTrek's 2025 submission under RFP 07 2025-03 offers a risk-free profit-sharing model, requiring no capital investment, maintenance obligations, or guaranteed attendance from the Zoo. The SkyPod can be removed, or purchased at fair market value.

## **COMMENTS**

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The SkyPod has a proven track record for outstanding performance in venues requiring high-capacity guest movement while providing a thrilling experience and great views of the surrounding areas. Some examples include the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), San Diego Zoo and Oakland Zoo.

EcoTrek Adventure Groups' proposal aligns with five of the 2022 Master Plan's 10 Guiding Strategies including: Densify Strategically, Welcome the Community, Turn Pain Points into Opportunities, Activate Winter/Accommodate Summer, Go Multimodal. A Gondola operation is also specially mentioned and outlined in Section 6.2 of the Master Plan under "Project specific Funding Framework".

The proposed location for the SkyPod is in an area that is already dense with guest experience, at our Front Entrance. With the opening of the Community Conservation Centre in 2026 and the Indoor Savanna Building slated for 2028, the SkyPod will offer a unique connection and transportation option between these two exciting new areas year-round.

The SkyPod offers an experience that is accessible to all with both wheelchair and stroller capabilities. It also features a sound system, themed loading stations and advertising opportunities. The SkyPod would be the highest guest through-put ride onsite due to its ability to move 800 guests per hour. It supports our strategic priority to make the Zoo a must-see destination, delivering customized experiences and facilities resulting in increased attendance and community engagement.

## **CONTACT**

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Adam Huston  
Director, Guest and Site Operations  
ahuston@torontozoo.ca  
416-392-3309

Lauren Ogle  
Manager, Guest Operations  
[logle@torontozoo.ca](mailto:logle@torontozoo.ca)  
416-392-9104

## **SIGNATURE**

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Adam Huston  
Director, Guest and Site Operations

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Appendix 1 - Photo Attachments

Confidential Attachment 1 - Confidential Information or Advice

## Appendix 1 - Photo Attachments



Image 1 - Artistic Rendering of SkyPod Experience



Image 2 - Photo Example of SkyPod Experience at External Location

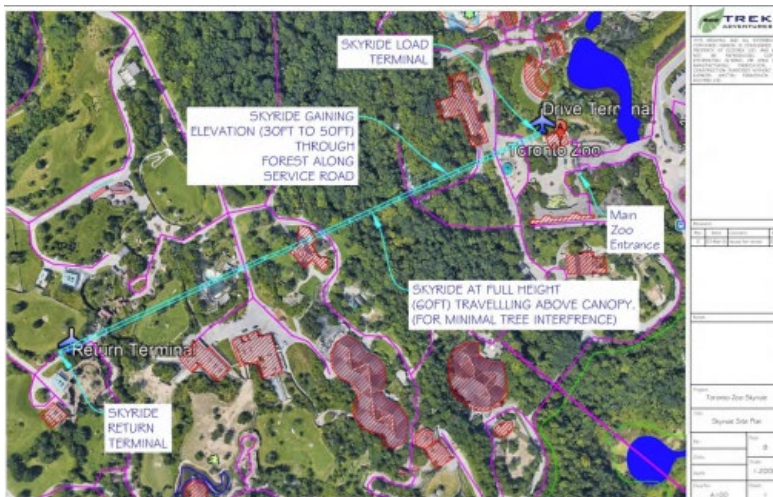


Image 3 - Potential Location for Installation of SkyPod Experience at Toronto Zoo