

Planning and Housing

From: Neil Betteridge (GWNA) <president@gwna.ca>
Sent: April 13, 2026 2:24 PM
To: Planning and Housing
Cc: Rick Green (FoSTRA Chair)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2026.PH29.11 on April 14, 2026 Planning and Housing Committee
Attachments: PH29.11 impact Assessment of Flightpath BBTCA - FoSTRA Support 2026-04-13.pdf
Categories: Communication

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the April 14, 2026 Planning and Housing Committee meeting on item 2026.PH29.11, Impact Assessment of Extended Flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport

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:
Please see attached letter.

Dear Chair Perks,

The Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations (FoSTRA) is a community-based organization that currently represents 27 residents' associations (RAs) in the five downtown wards - Wards 4, 9, 10, 11, and 13 - and, through these RAs, hundreds of thousands of Toronto's residents. Notably, these RAs represent many tens of thousands of residents on and near the waterfront whose lives are the most directly impacted by changes in island airport operations.

As stated in the attached letter, we support Councillor Matlow's motion to study the potential impact of accommodating jets at BBTCA.

We accept that this submission will become part of the public record.

Regards,
Neil Betteridge
Member, FoSTRA Policy Response Team
On Behalf of Rick Green, Chair, FoSTRA



April 13, 2026

Chair Perks and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee

Subject: PH29.11 - Impact Assessment of Extended Flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport

The Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations (FoSTRA) is a community-based organization that currently represents 27 residents' associations (RAs) in the five downtown wards - Wards 4, 9, 10, 11, and 13 - and, through these RAs, hundreds of thousands of Toronto's residents. Notably, these RAs represent many tens of thousands of residents on and near the waterfront whose lives are the most directly impacted by changes in island airport operations.

We strongly support the motion to have City Staff urgently study the prospective impact that expanding the flightpath to accommodate jets at Billy Bishop Airport would have on new housing supply.

FoSTRA has consistently advocated for projects to deliver desperately needed affordable housing in our city. We are gravely concerned that a Provincially imposed dictate to allow commercial jets at Billy Bishop Airport would cost thousands of new affordable housing units by slashing planned building heights on Ookwemin Minising Island.

Our member Residents' Associations have been actively involved for many years in Waterfront Toronto's empowering Stakeholder Advisory Committees and high-quality, transparent public engagement surrounding the development of new housing and public facilities on the waterfront and Port Lands areas. FoSTRA member RA's have made deputations and submissions in support of zoning changes to enable the development of much-needed housing on Ookwemin Minising, and have advocated for increased density and heights needed to "make the math work" to unlock the unique high potential of the extensive City-owned lands on the island to deliver vital affordable homes for Toronto's workers and families.



Federation of
South Toronto
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATIONS

Too much of downtown high-rise development over the past two decades has brought more residents without meaningful additional public space for them. Our growing, densely populated downtown wards cannot continue to lose precious outdoor public space. The latest public realm designs for OoKwemin Minising promise world-class spaces; it would be tragic if a loss of residential building height forced a reversion to the impoverished public realm common in massively intensified downtown core areas.

In 2024, while PortsToronto and its commercial clients, Porter Airlines and Nieuport Aviation, were leveraging the need for runway safety improvements to press for airport expansion through the RESA 3 option, FoSTRA supported City staff's recommended RESA 1 as a balanced approach that preserved the airport's existing commercial operations while having the lowest incremental negative impacts on livability on Toronto's waterfront.

In addition to the threat of direct loss of homes in the Port Lands from building height restrictions, we foresee BBTCA expansion with jets leading to reduced desirability and marketability of new homes along a much broader swath of the waterfront as the negative impacts of airport operations are extended and amplified.

Toronto faces many challenges in effectively supporting its growing population, including a densifying downtown core with limited outdoor public space and a critical lack of affordable housing for vital workers. The imposition by the province of ill-conceived major changes around our waterfront would only exacerbate the scale of these challenges. It is vital to have a data-driven understanding of the impacts before the Premier forces through a vibes-driven vision.

Sincerely,

Rick Green
Chair

cc: Mayor Chow, Deputy Mayor Malik, Councillor Moise, Councillor Saxe, Councillor Bravo, Councillor Perks, Councillor Fletcher, MPP Glover, MPP Bell, MPP Wong-Tam, MPP Gilmour, MP Nguyen, MP Solomon, MP Bardeesy, Dr. Danielle Martin, Minister of Transport McKinnon