



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth

April 29, 2026

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Lake Shore Boulevard East Landscape Plan

Dear Councillor Moise and Toronto and East York Community Council,

The removal of the Gardiner Expressway created a grand boulevard along Lake Shore Boulevard East from Don Roadway to Leslie Street, with the first phase completed under a public realm plan designed by DTAH.

As future phases move forward, including the construction of a multi-use trail connection to close the existing gap between Cherry Street and the Don River bridge, there is an opportunity to review the public realm and ensure continued consistency with the award-winning DTAH design established through the original Gardiner takedown.

The presence of a large Variable Message Sign (VMS) within this corridor should also be reassessed as part of this work, to determine whether it remains appropriate within the context of long-term public realm investments and design objectives.

Recommendations:

Toronto and East York Community Council:

Request the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with relevant City Divisions and Waterfront Toronto, to report back on the following items to the July 9th, 2026 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. An assessment of how the landscape treatment for Lake Shore Boulevard East, west of Carlaw Avenue, will align with the existing landscape treatment east of Carlaw Avenue, as designed by DTAH and delivered as part of the early-2000s Gardiner Expressway removal, including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Multi-use trails,
 - b. Lighting fixtures,
 - c. Trees and planting, and
 - d. Public art elements

2. Confirm whether the Variable Message Sign (VMS) was included as part of the approved or proposed landscape plan, or provide a rationale and explanation of when the VMS was introduced and its design and operational considerations separate from the landscape plan.
3. Input from Waterfront Toronto on whether a Variable Message Sign would be desirable and appropriate within the landscape plan associated with the current Gardiner Expressway removal project from west of Carlaw Avenue to Cherry Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Fletcher". The script is cursive and fluid.

Paula Fletcher

City Councillor Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth