

**From:** [Raly Chakarova](#)  
**To:** [Toronto East York Community Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Norman Cheesman](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2026.TE29.14 on February 19, 2026 Toronto and East York Community Council  
**Date:** February 17, 2026 3:10:56 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the February 19, 2026 Toronto and East York Community Council meeting on item 2026.TE29.14, 402 and 440 Unwin Avenue - Official Plan Amendment - Appeal Report

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:

Dear Councillor Moise and Community Council Members:

The Toronto and Area Road Builders Association (TARBA) is writing in support of the staff recommendations to oppose the current proposal going before the Ontario Land Tribunal to allow the re-development of the Hearn Plant site to permit residential uses.

TARBA represents more than 180 unionized contractors responsible for building and maintaining the transportation infrastructure that keeps Toronto moving. Toronto's Port provides vital regional functions, including the production and shipment of construction aggregates. The Concrete Campus, established specifically to locate concrete batching and aggregate operations away from residential neighbourhoods, plays a critical role in supplying the essential construction materials needed to deliver infrastructure, housing, and transit projects across the city. It is also a key hub for recycling old concrete and asphalt for reuse, supporting the circular economy, reducing demand for virgin materials along with traffic congestion within the City.

Introducing residential uses into this active industrial and employment area would jeopardize the long-term viability of the Port and these critical operations. Residential encroachment inevitably leads to land use conflicts, including complaints related to noise, dust, odours, and industrial activity. Employment areas exist precisely to protect these necessary operations and ensure the continued functioning of the city's construction supply chains.

Toronto has made strong commitments to environmental sustainability, and the Port Lands represent an opportunity to expand greener freight movement and marine-based transportation, reducing reliance on trucks and supporting more efficient, lower-emission goods movement across the region. Many Great Lakes ports have successfully grown these functions, and Toronto is well-positioned to do the same.

For these reasons, TARBA supports City staff position in opposing this proposed conversion to residential use and encourages Council to uphold the long-term planning framework that protects the Port Lands as a vital employment and infrastructure-supporting area.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Raly Chakarova**  
**Executive Director, TARBA**

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Toronto and Area Road Builders Association