

7. Problem and Opportunity Statement

The following Problem and Opportunity statement, which was presented at the first Public Information Centre (PIC) held on June 25th, 2014, succinctly describes the existing and future problems and opportunities to be addressed by this study:

The City of Toronto has established a vision for the long-term revitalization of the Highland Creek Village into a vibrant, pedestrian friendly and mixed use community. In order to accommodate all roadway users, and support this vision, changes are required to the transportation network that promote redevelopment opportunities and reinvestment in the Village. There are significant opportunities to improve the public realm and pedestrian environment and to encourage the use of transit, cycling, and walking as viable modes of transportation.

The Problem and Opportunity statement was developed based on an understanding of the existing conditions and issues, the vision and outcomes of the Highland Creek Area Study (which directly triggered and led to this TMP), and the future redevelopment and growth that is envisioned to occur in the community.

Although there are differing opinions and views in the community about the merits of specific transportation improvements and potential changes in the Village, there is overall support for reinvestment in the community (i.e., many underdeveloped and vacant lots), improvements to the public realm (i.e., areas with non-existent and incomplete sidewalks), and support for improving conditions for all roadway users (i.e., transit, cycling, and walking). Consequently, the Problem and Opportunity Statement captures each of the following key themes:

- **Improving the public realm and pedestrian environment:** Addressing existing gaps and deficiencies in the pedestrian/sidewalk network and improving the existing streetscape in a manner that respects and extends the Village character throughout the study area.
- **Encouraging the usage of transit, cycling, and walking:** Providing additional connections and new opportunities for crossing barriers to non-motorized travel modes (e.g., pedestrian and cycle friendly crossings of Highway 2A).
- **Supporting redevelopment and reinvestment in the community:** Designing the local transportation network to accommodate growth, provide opportunities to release developable interchange lands for other uses, and efficiently connect the community to the rest of the City of Toronto and the GTA.