



**RE: Letter of Principles
on Billy Bishop Toronto
City Airport Potential
Expansion and
Waterfront Impacts**

**Dear Minister MacKinnon and Members of the Transport Canada
Consultation Team,**

The Waterfront BIA (WBIA) represents the business community along Toronto's central waterfront, including the Bathurst Quay and Eireann Quay entrance to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA).

TO:

Hon. Steven MacKinnon,
Minister of Transport,
and Leader of the
Government in the
House of Commons;
Transport Canada, Air
Policy

DATE:

July 20, 2026

Our business community has long been supportive of BBTCA and recognizes its role as a gateway for tourism and business travel to the city. In December 2020, we supported the addition of U.S. transborder pre-clearance facilities at the airport, and in September 2024, we supported its Runway End Safety Area (RESA) plans. We have generally expected the airport to modernize over time, including additional types of aircraft, and that this growth would be in a way that co-exists, complements and supports Toronto's waterfront overall.

The following set of principles will continue to guide our advocacy on any potential expansion of the island airport. We expect to re-evaluate using these principles once actual proposal details are shared for any expansion. We welcome further technical detail on the proposal as it develops, including projected aircraft types, flight paths, impacts on development in the Port Lands, and operational modelling, and we encourage Transport Canada and the airport's proponents to hold the project to a comparable set of principles as planning advances:

- **Balanced growth:** Airport growth should be considered alongside, not in isolation from, the substantial residential, commercial, and recreational growth occurring across the rest of the waterfront, and should be accompanied by transportation and public realm improvements needed to support both.
- **Protecting the Inner Harbour:** We continue to advocate against any expansion of the Inner Harbour's Marine Exclusion Zone beyond its current boundary. The zone is already effectively unavailable for commercial and recreational marine use, so some changes within it are expected; our position is that other aviation requirements should be adapted to fit within the zone's current footprint rather than the zone itself growing. Per our 2025 Toronto Inner Harbour Commercial Passenger Vessel Survey, the commercial passenger vessel industry is a significant economic driver and component of our tourism sector, which depends on the continued navigability and access in this area. This industry has significant potential to grow and should not be constrained.
- **Noise and environmental performance:** New aircraft should be evaluated in terms of noise and emissions performance supported by credible technical analysis of how the specific aircraft proposed would operate at BBTCA and minimizing or even lessening their impact.



- **Community impact and investment:** This remains our core area of focus. Queens Quay West around Bathurst Quay remains one of the least active and developed parts of the central waterfront for retail, cultural programming, and visitor experience, particularly as the eastern waterfront has grown significantly in comparison. Any significant change to the airport is an opportunity to close that gap, and we welcome a constructive conversation about where improvements can be made in the area's development and programming involving the airport, all levels of government, residents, and businesses, on how future investment can support a more vibrant and welcoming Bathurst Quay and Queens Quay West neighbourhood.

We will look to support a successful, modern and integrated BBTCA operating within a successful, modern and integrated waterfront-wide mix of amenities, destinations and attractions. We appreciate that this consultation is seeking input directly from local businesses and waterfront users. We would welcome further conversation as the process continues, and are glad to share our data or connect you with our business community members where it would be useful.

Sincerely,



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