



RE:

**Letter of request
regarding Waterfront
East Rapid Transit
construction planning
and construction
mitigation**

TO:

Toronto Transit
Commission, Waterfront
Toronto and City of
Toronto Transit
Expansion Office

DATE:

May 12, 2026

Dear Mandeep Lali, George Zegarac and Derrick Toigo,

Congratulations on the tri-level funding commitment to the Waterfront East Rapid Transit line, formerly referred to as the Waterfront East LRT. This is a major milestone for the eastern waterfront, the Port Lands, and Toronto's broader waterfront transit network. The Waterfront BIA has long supported this project and the larger vision of improved waterfront connectivity.

We look forward to seeing the Waterfront East RT advance transit access on the eastern waterfront while strengthening east-west movement across the full waterfront – from Exhibition Place, along Queens Quay past the Harbourfront Centre, and into the new Port Lands. This project will help create a truly "waterfront-wide" experience for people visiting, working, studying, and living in Toronto.

The Waterfront BIA has also been proud to help build the case for this investment. Working with waterfront partners, our organization has supported an [economic impact study](#), [commuter survey](#), [op-ed](#), [joint statements](#) from stakeholders, [videos](#), [reports](#), sponsored events and [symposiums](#) to promote the Waterfront East RT and broader waterfront connectivity.

As the project moves toward implementation, the focus now shifts from whether it should be built to how it will be delivered. For waterfront businesses, residents, visitors, cultural institutions, and destinations, construction planning will be critical to maintaining confidence in the project and keeping the district functioning.

The Waterfront BIA is writing to open a conversation about how we can support construction planning as a collaborative local partner. As a City agency/local board with direct relationships across our waterfront business district neighbours, the WBIA can assist in many key areas, including business outreach, local access feedback, wayfinding and signage review, stakeholder coordination, and practical input on how construction plans will work on the ground.

The principles below are informed by lessons from past Toronto-based transit projects, including the Eglinton Way BIA's [BIA Construction Tool Kit](#) and the TTC-commissioned [Getting it Right](#) report on St. Clair. We believe these lessons are directly relevant to the Waterfront East RT and should be considered early in project planning.

- Building construction impact mitigation practices into project delivery from the outset, including clear expectations for access, loading, cleanliness, safety, communications, signage, parking, and rapid issue response.
- Keeping construction footprints compact, avoiding long stretches of closures, and re-opening completed areas quickly can increase and maintain public confidence amongst local stakeholders.



- Prioritizing clear signage and communications to make clear that businesses and destinations remain open and accessible.

Our BIA can be a proactive, constructive and valuable partner in these areas if we can develop a relationship that includes coordinating early on public realm decisions and impacts, and early opportunities to review, comment and bring local business feedback to construction decision-making and management.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet soon to discuss how we can be supportive in advance of significant plans and contracts being finalized. Our organization will be re-aligning or dedicating much of our operations, placemaking, wayfinding, marketing and promotions work to construction mitigation support in the coming years and would benefit from your insights early. Our goal will be to assist your organizations in delivering the Waterfront East RT in a way that maintains public confidence, supports local businesses, and keeps the waterfront functioning as a premier destination and place to visit, work and live during construction.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be pleased to meet at your convenience to discuss how these principles can be incorporated into project planning, procurement, and construction delivery.

Sincerely,

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