



September 13, 2023

Mayor Olivia Chow
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow,

***Re: Congratulations ... and support for your proposal
to revisit the Gardiner East rebuild***

Congratulations on your recent election as the mayor of Toronto. We are excited to see a person with a proven track record in improving walking, cycling, and public transit become the city's highest office holder.

We also wish to offer our full support for your proposal to revisit city council's 2015 decision to rebuild the Gardiner East Expressway, specifically the elevated link between the Gardiner and the Don Valley Parkway. We believe that in the context of the huge budget shortfall and the worsening climate crisis, the decision is no longer defensible.

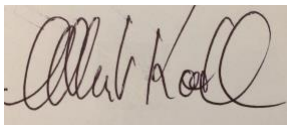
In March 2023, our coalition of 38 community groups formed [Gardiner East Transparency](#) (GET) to call for updated financial costs, foregone revenues, and an assessment of feasible options to the currently approved Gardiner rebuild. The significant media attention garnered by [our letter to the acting mayor and city councillors](#) demonstrated the significant public interest in this matter, and, we believe, significant public opposition to the current plan.

The ongoing debate and controversy about the rebuilding of the Gardiner East continues to suffer from a lack of up-to-date information – information to which the public is entitled. In addition, the current budgetary and climate crises support a proper re-evaluation of feasible alternatives to the approved, elevated design.

We are sure you agree that current city priorities do not include preserving the legacy of Fred 'big daddy' Gardiner, nor ways of moving people that are dictated by thinking from the 1950s and 1960s. Any financial savings from the current plan would be better invested in the pressing needs of our city, including homelessness, improving the TTC, and addressing the budget shortfall.

We would be happy to meet with you to determine how we might best provide our support to your proposal to revisit the Gardiner East rebuild.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light brown rectangular background. The signature appears to read "Albert Koehl".

Albert Koehl
[Community Bikeways](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Lyn".

Lyn Adamson
[ClimateFast](#)

Peter Miasek

Peter Miasek
[Transport Action Ontario](#)