



Councillor Paula Fletcher
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September 3, 2013

Mark McQueen
Chair, Board of Directors
Toronto Port Authority
60 Harbour St.
Toronto ON M5J 1B7

Dear Chair & Members,

Re: Toronto Port Authority Shipping Channel Bridge

We are writing with regards to the Toronto Port Authority Shipping Channel Bridge – the Cherry Street Strauss Trunnion Bascule Bridge which has been closed for repairs since November. This bridge has always operated as two lanes, one in each direction, connecting the industrial facilities, yacht, sailing and windsurfing clubs, Cherry Beach, soccer fields and other elements of the Port Lands with the rest of the city.

The Ship Channel Bridge was originally due to reopen in June 2013. Construction delays with the work on the lifting mechanism have resulted in a prolonged closure of the bridge. On August 20, 2013, the TPA projected that the bridge will reopen on September 12.

The August 20th release also states "**Once reopened the Ship Channel bridge will be available to single lane vehicular traffic, marine transit, pedestrians and cyclists. The Toronto Port Authority will provide traffic control lights for public safety while the bridge is limited to single lane traffic**".

In extensive public consultations on the future of Toronto's Port Lands connectivity to the waterfront has been identified as a key priority. This is why it is troubling that the Toronto Port Authority is reducing access to the Port Lands by restricting the Ship Channel Bridge to one lane. The Port Lands need to be more accessible not less accessible.

TPA must honour the aspirations of the residents of Toronto for a vibrant, shared, accessible waterfront.

Therefore, we request not only that the reconstruction of the bridge be completed in a timely manner but also that the bridge be maintained as a two-lane bridge as it had been prior to the repairs.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth

Craig Scott, MP
Toronto-Danforth

cc: John Livey, Deputy City Manager
Geoffrey Wilson, President & CEO Toronto Port Authority
John W. Campbell, President & CEO Waterfront Toronto
Interested Parties