

UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER 24

Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1

SEPTEMBER 25

TTC Meeting

SEPTEMBER 30

Board of Health, 1:00 p.m., committee room 1

OCTOBER 1

Aboriginal Affairs Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1

OCTOBER 2

Budget Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1

OCTOBER 3

Toronto Preservation Board, 2:00 p.m., committee room 2

OCTOBER 8-9

Council, 9:30 a.m., council chambers

OCTOBER 15

Government Management Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1

OCTOBER 16

Design Review Panel, 12:00 p.m., committee room 2

OCTOBER 17

Etobicoke York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., Etobicoke Civic Centre

North York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., North York Civic Centre

Scarborough Community Council, 9:30 a.m., Scarborough Civic Centre

Toronto and East York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., City Hall, committee room 1

OCTOBER 21

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1

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CITY OF TORONTO EDITION

Regional active transportation strategy

SMALLER MOVES

By Greg MacDonald

A new report from active transportation advocates calls on municipalities and the provincial government to create a dedicated funding stream for walking and cycling.

The Other 25%-The Big Move and Active Transportation Investment was released by the **Clean Air Partnership** last week, and recommends that a more co-ordinated strategy needs to be undertaken to expand active transportation networks in Toronto and the GTA.

The transportation discussion in Toronto and the surrounding area has centred on public transit and how to pay for it. But transit isn't the only mode of transportation covered by the Big Move, which also includes policies on active transportation investment.

Despite the inclusion of biking and walking in the transportation plan, discussions about investment haven't touched on the infrastructure necessary to encourage those mode choices, said **Toronto Centre for Active Transportation** executive director **Nancy Smith Lea**, who edited the report.

The first wave of projects in the Big Move includes a \$20-million annual investment in active transportation.

"That has not happened," Smith Lea said. "There isn't an annual funding formula for it and there isn't coordination to make that happen...The Big Move should be accelerating investment at a municipal level."

Earlier this week, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** appointed an expert advisory panel to explore how to pay for transit expansion and the plans contained in the Big Move. (For a full list of panel members, see People in today's edition.)

The report recommends a similar advisory panel be set up for active transportation projects, which could both advocate and advise on network expansion.

"We wanted to ensure that active transportation was featured in the investment strategy and we were concerned that it wasn't," Smith Lea said.

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• Nancy Smith Lea

Active transportation also needs to be integrated with transit expansion plans, Smith Lea said. As **Metrolinx** develops its mobility hubs, special attention needs to be given to the networks that take users to the hubs.

"The active transportation component should be included in the budgeting and the planning," Smith Lea said, adding that cycling and walking networks are key components in connecting mobility hubs to the wider communities.

In order to achieve

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Annual subscription rate is
\$369 +HST (ON).

Complimentary trial
subscriptions are available.

Advertising rates available
upon request.

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NRU City of Toronto Edition
is published 50 times a
year by email by NRU
Publishing Inc.

NRU Publishing Inc.
Editorial Office
26 Soho Street, Suite 330
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ISSN 1918-7548

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FIGHTING FOR EXPO

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we haven't given ourselves the opportunity to provide answers."

The last World's Fair to take place in North America was in Vancouver in 1986, and that event was a major part of what developed the harbour into what it is today. And Montreal's 1967 Expo led to the expansion of the metro system. Holding the World's Fair in Toronto could lead to just as big an impact, Wong-Tam says. She's suggested many times that this could be the perfect opportunity to develop the Port Lands.

Wong-Tam isn't the only one who feels this way. A long list of prominent decision-makers in the city have signed on to the cause, including MP **Olivia Chow**, Greater Toronto Civic Action Alliance chair **John Tory**, former Toronto mayors **Art Eggleton**, **David Crombie** and **Mel Lastman**, Ryerson University president **Sheldon Levy**, senator **Don Meredith**, councillors **Mike Layton**, **Adam Vaughan** and **Pam McConnell**, and a host of others, totaling 63 community leaders.

The most striking aspect of the letter is the spirit of cooperation behind it. Representatives of every political party and from every level of government are involved. Brant Conservative candidate **Phil Gillies** is one of them.

"Holding the World's Fair would leave a lasting legacy going well beyond the actual year of the fair in 2025," he told **NRU**.

"I just think that the Prime Minister has a couple of misimpressions about what a World's Fair would be in this modern age. We're working very hard to try to influence the Prime Minister's thinking on this," he added.

Wong-Tam thinks the coalition has about a 50/50 chance of changing Harper's mind.

Hosting the World's Fair would bring about 40-million visitors to Toronto, and while it would require a major investment upfront, past projections have suggested a serious economic benefit from hosting it. While the available numbers



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are dated—they are from a 2006 bid for the 2015 Expo—they suggest 143,000 jobs could be created, generating \$8.4-billion in wages. They also suggest \$13.5-billion of value-added GDP in Canada, with \$8.1-billion of that in the GTA. A new report with updated numbers is being compiled by **Ernst & Young** for presentation to the city's economic development committee on October 24.

In the coalition's letter to Harper, it says that members have learned from Harper's staff and cabinet that the Prime Minister's issues with hosting Expo 2025 have to do with the cost of security, and the relevance of a World's Fair in the age of the internet. Members were told that because of Harper's commitment to tighten Canada's purse strings, he wants to withdraw the country from the **Bureau International des Expositions**, Expo's governing body.

"Other countries that do show up [to future World Fairs] will develop trade agreements and diplomatic ties with one another, and Canada won't. It's really quite alarming to me," Wong-Tam says.

Until the end of October, Gillies says, the coalition will continue to lobby for the opportunity to bid on hosting the Expo 2025.

"We're meeting leaders from government and from the business sector almost on a daily basis, right up until the matter goes back to council." **nrn**

SMALLER MOVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

integration, however, there needs to be a clearer structure for active transportation projects at Metrolinx.

The report also recommends that the transit agency establish a dedicated staff department to deal with active

transportation concerns.

The report's authors are arranging a meeting with Metrolinx to discuss their findings. The report can be found on the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation's [website](#). **nrn**