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May 10, 2021

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May 11, 2021

Mayor Brown & Members of Council
City of Brampton
City Hall, 2 Wellington Street,
Brampton, ON L6Y4L2

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

**Re: proposed Motion to delay watermain replacement in downtown Brampton,
Agenda Item 11.3.2, May 12, 2021, Committee of Council**

Your Worship and Members of Council,

It is our understanding that Council will consider a motion, at the May 12th Committee of Council meeting, to reverse its decision of July 8, 2020 to proceed with temporary road, water and wastewater works in downtown Brampton.

We encourage City Council not to delay on these urgent watermain and sanitary sewer upgrades. It is a fact that the infrastructure is in urgent need of upgrade. Options have been considered including all benefits, risks and challenges. Both City and Regional Council made the decision to proceed with the most cost-effective option. To reverse its decision now, brings new concerns about safety, liability and business continuity.

We understand that construction will create disruption downtown for up to 24 months. We empathize with the challenges that tenants and property owners will face, as a result. Unfortunately, the alternative is even more disruptive for business and future investment and much more expensive for Brampton taxpayers.

In our opinion, waiting for a decision on the LRT, which is implied in the proposed motion being considered by Council this week, is irresponsible. There is no realistic schedule for LRT implementation. Although the motion encourages delay until, *'one overall coordinated and permanent infrastructure upgrade and urban streetscape improvement plan for the downtown can be developed'*, the current

state of failing infrastructure caused by a historical delay in decision-making makes that impossible. When it made the decision to go forward with the essential infrastructure work on July 8th, 2020, Council knew that to wait until LRT funding was in place would likely mean water and sanitary work would be delayed for at least 10 years. Nothing has changed since that decision was made, and to consciously delay this work for another decade would be irresponsible.

Specifically, delaying work and waiting on an LRT decision brings the risks, challenges and questions that Council has already considered and decided upon. These points were clearly front of mind in July 2020, and we strongly encourage Council to consider these again:

- 1) **There is a high risk of failure of the existing infrastructure.** What is the safety risk? Are the vitality of businesses or human life at risk?
- 2) **Legal and third-party risks.** What is the forecast of these costs?
- 3) **Servicing for development required.** What developments will be at risk as a result of the delay? Does this jeopardize the Centre for Innovation? Has the economic development department provided an opinion?
- 4) **Roads will continue to deteriorate.** How will this impact the safety of bicycle and pedestrian traffic for the next decade?
- 5) **No ability to upgrade any other utilities in the area (hydro, gas, telecom).** This puts downtown real estate at a competitive disadvantage. How does this negatively impact office, condo or other development?
- 6) **Uncertainty in timing for LRT project.** Council has not yet picked a route, let alone budgeted or applied for funding. This project is a decade away or more.
- 7) **No improvement to existing conditions for Downtown.** We encourage Council to resist repeating the same mistakes of past Councils. Downtown Brampton is a source of pride for our City and should not languish.

Years of neglect and delayed decisions have left our downtown water and wastewater infrastructure in perilous condition. Further delay jeopardizes all downtown investment plans. We strongly encourage Brampton City Council to not approve the motion to delay. Rather, we encourage City and Regional Council to move forward, together, with their original decisions to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure beginning in July 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Letts', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Todd Letts, MBA, CCE
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Chair Iannicca & Members of Regional Council