

City of Toronto
City Clerk's Office
13th Fl. W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H2N2

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL: teycc@toronto.ca

November 1, 2011

RE: TE11.49
Road Alterations - River Street Between Queen Street East and King Street East

Dear Members of Toronto and East York Community Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA), which represents the residents and businesses of the Corktown community, generally bounded by Shuter Street to the north, Lake Shore Boulevard to the south, Berkeley Street to the west, and the Don River to the east. One of the CRBA's key priorities is the improvement to the physical environment of our community, including appropriate built form, well-designed and complete streets, and a high-quality public realm.

Corktown is excited and proud to play the role as the host and gateway community for the West Don Lands, home of the Athletes' Village for the 2015 Pan American Games. We believe that the development of these long under-utilized lands represents an unprecedented investment into the community and will drive long-term positive change. We reiterate our strong support for the project, the Pan Am Games and the process being led by Waterfront Toronto.

On this item, the CRBA is supportive of the closure of the Bayview Avenue ramp to support the objectives of the flood protection landform and realignment of River Street to connect to the new street network in the West Don Lands. Our predominant concern with the road alteration relates to the additional non-road space resulting from the realignment of River Street on its west side, which could create so-called "orphaned space" unless properly dealt with now. This area is illustrated in **Exhibit 1**.

"Orphaned space" is a major concern in Corktown and identified as a major priority for the community. The neighbourhood has a significant number of orphaned spaces. Many of these have resulted from roads projects, most notably the Richmond-Adelaide/DVP ramps and the resulting abandoned and orphaned remnant municipal lands. These awkward public lands are often ignored and fall into disrepair as responsibility for them is not clearly defined. We hope to prevent the creation of additional orphaned space as a result of the River Street realignment.

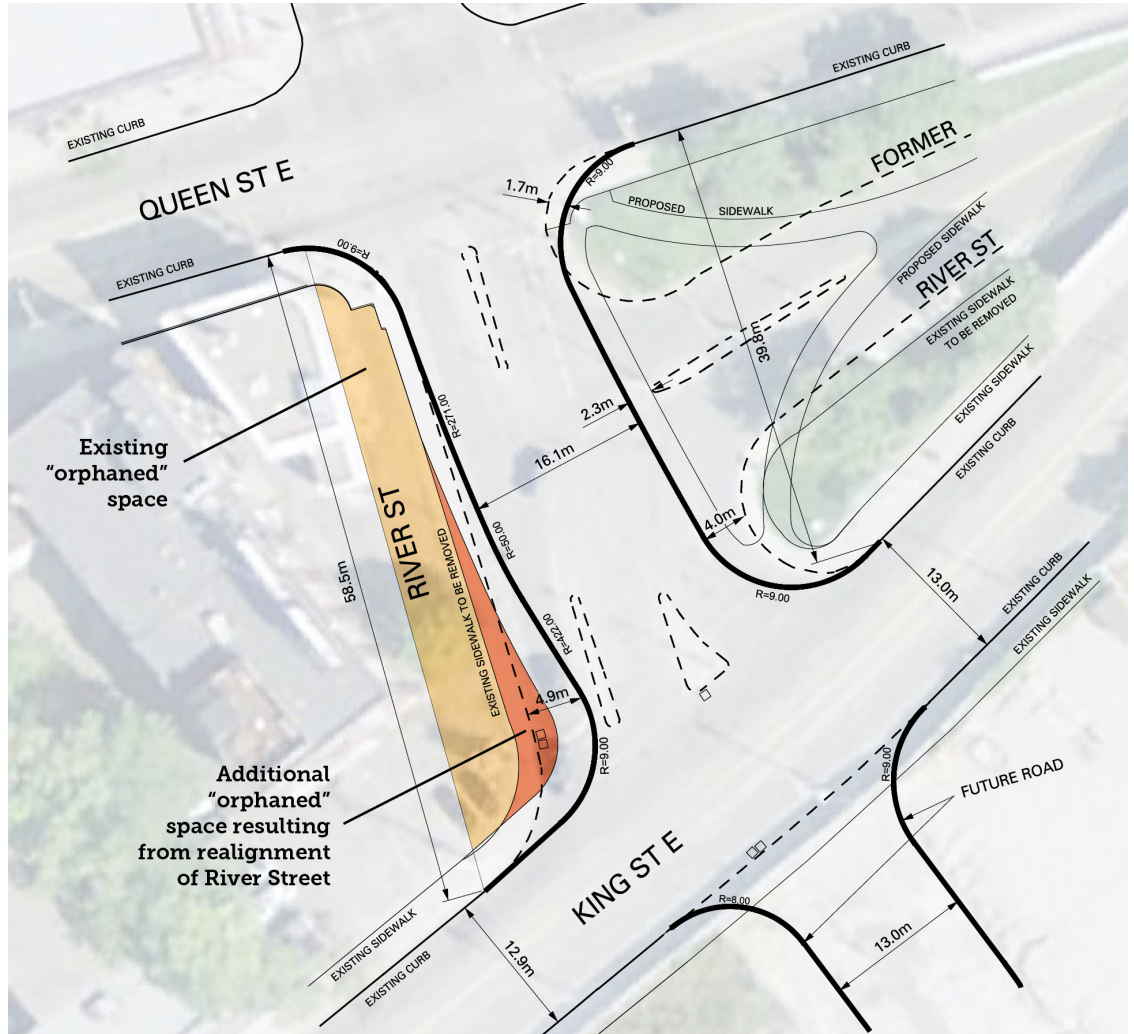
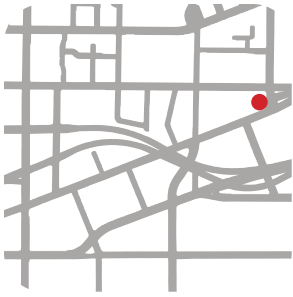


Exhibit 1: Orphaned Public Spaces at River Street between King Street and Queen Street

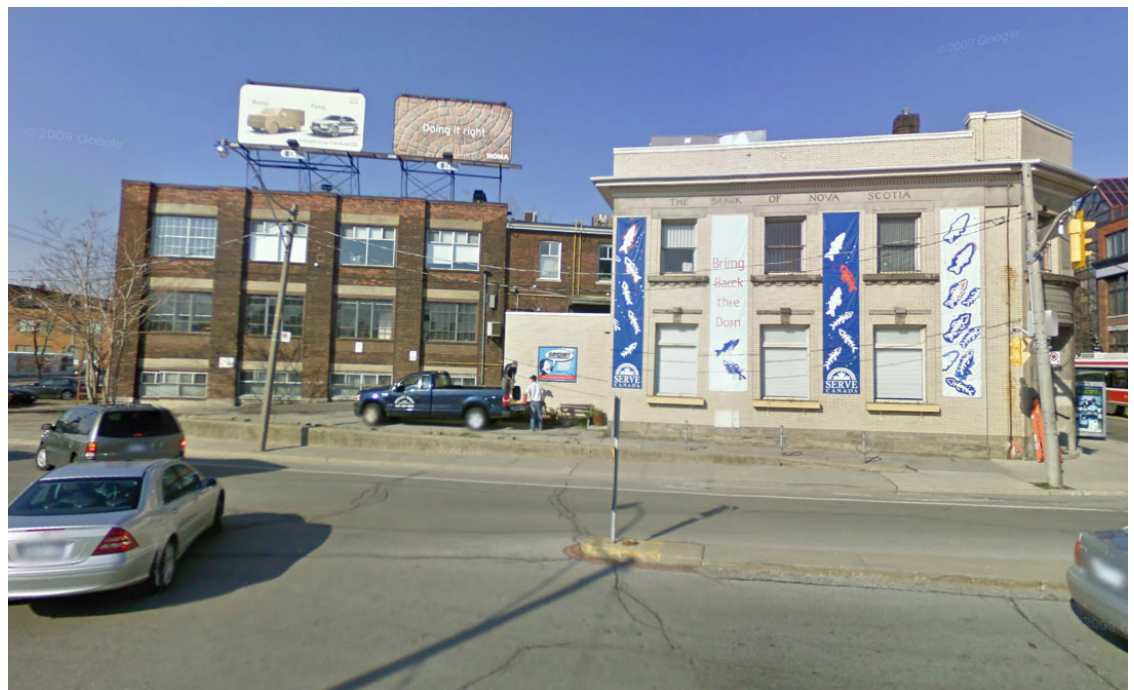


Exhibit 2: Existing Condition



We would like to propose the following to be considered as a motion during the approval of this item and the final design of the River Street road alteration:

- Encourage Transportation Services to work with the CRBA and its Development Committee to determine what opportunities exist on this site to achieve mutual goals and objectives; and
- Leverage the road alteration work to create a public realm feature in the surplus public lands that would serve as a signature gateway into Corktown, the West Don Lands, and Downtown Toronto.

The CRBA and its Development Committee welcomes the opportunity to create a lasting legacy and improvement to our city's public realm and are looking forward to a positive outcome. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any assistance.

Sincerely,

Laurence Lui

Board of Directors, Corktown Residents and Business Association
Member, CRBA Development Committee
Resident, Ward 28

cc: Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28