

THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF CANADA

July 24, 2009

The Honourable John Baird, PC, MP
Minister of Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Baird,

As President and CEO of the Economic Club of Canada, I want to take this opportunity to express my support for the proposal by the Toronto Port Authority to build a tunnel connecting the Toronto mainland to the Toronto City Centre Airport terminal.

The empirical evidence is clear: Building a pedestrian tunnel to the Toronto Island Airport makes perfect economic sense by creating much needed construction jobs. There are also a number of other associated benefits: It is a matter of convenience for the growing number of travelers who make use of the Island Airport. A tunnel would also provide island residents with reliable, year round access to the Toronto mainland and thereby reducing the costly winter ferry service to the islands. In addition, the tunnel could also be adapted to accommodate a much needed new watermain to service the island residents.

The construction of a pedestrian tunnel connecting the Toronto mainland to the city's island airport from my understanding is a 'shovel ready' project and by that measure should receive the requisite federal infrastructure funding to proceed with construction. This tunnel will clearly be a benefit to the city of Toronto and the GTA on all fronts and I support its construction.

If you have any questions or require any additional comments, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,



Mark Adler
President and CEO
The Economic Club of Canada

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