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To: Board and CEO
Toronto Transit Commission
1900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
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**New Business -
Streetcar and Track Noise
at the Intersection of King St. E.
and Sumach St.**

**(submitted by Commissioner Carroll
on behalf of Councillor Wong-Tam)**

Re: Streetcar and Track Noise at the Intersection of King Street East and Sumach Street

Dear Board, and CEO,

Recognizing that in 2018 there was a new board appointed, I would like to draw your attention to a pressing matter in the Corktown community.

Since the TTC began operating the 504A Cherry Street route in June 2016, the King and Sumach turn has generated considerable noise that has become unbearable to residents living adjacent to this intersection. According to residents, the loud screech of the metal wheels from the streetcar turn grinds against the tracks, shakes nearby homes and pierces through thick window glass. The vibrations and noise of the track switch can be felt through these low rise, heritage homes. The noise from King and Sumach has been reported to be heard even from high-rise residential buildings near the Distillery Loop, blocks away from the intersection.

In September 2016, the TTC acknowledged this impact on local residents and began running shuttle buses from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. on weekends. Additionally, they have prioritized deploying the newest streetcars on this route and have installed noise dampening rings on 10 of the streetcars. There are 23 streetcars mobilized to match the demand on this route, and therefore less than 50% have noise reduction.

To address the matter of the track switch, TTC Engineering Department advised they are continuing to test prototypes to develop a new and improved trailing switch design, that it will be a relatively long-term project and the eastbound switch at King and Sumach will be the first priority for implementation in a mixed-traffic intersection. While testing is important for sustainability and long term safety, progress has been slow. For nearly four years this issue has been ongoing wreaking havoc on local neighbours.

As you may also know, local residents have organized and brought their complaints public when Global News took an interest in their plight. While I sincerely appreciate the well-intentioned efforts made by TTC to address residents' complaints, I believe it's critical to recognize that such efforts have sadly fallen short of a satisfactory resolution. It is time for a clear plan of action and

a more urgent timeline. It is time for these residents to get a goodnight's sleep without the fear of waking to screeching metal and a shaking home.

It is recommended that the TTC Board direct the CEO to:

1. Prioritize and expedite any and all remedial measures including the installation of dampening rings on all streetcars along the 504A route.
2. Process and test all prototypes to develop a new and improved trailing switch to reduce noise impacts from the current track switch operations.
3. Report back to the TTC Board by November 16, 2020 with any outcomes, status updates and timeline for any outstanding work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I look forward to working with you to resolve this unfortunate situation in Corktown.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Wong-Tam', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Ward 13- Toronto Centre

KWT/mp