

MOTION

13. Relief for Commercial Properties Impacted by the Broadway Subway Construction (Member's Motion B.7)

At the Council meeting on June 7, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on June 8, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick

WHEREAS

1. Construction of the Broadway Subway has disrupted the business of merchants and commercial operators along the Broadway Corridor. The loss of business has had a profound impact on the livelihoods of both property owners and renters of commercial space along the Broadway Corridor;
2. Merchants located adjacent to "[cut and cover \[wsp.com\]](http://wsp.com)" sites are more severely impacted than other areas along the Broadway Corridor. Cut and cover sections of construction restrict pedestrian, vehicle and bus access to merchants. Visibility of businesses in cut and cover sections is severely limited and significantly impacted;
3. Properties along the Broadway corridor are not provided with the same level of access for customers, suppliers and deliveries. Mitigation measures have not been effective at offsetting business losses;
4. The Broadway Subway is a "[design and build \[dbia.org\]](http://dbia.org)" project, thus businesses receive information and are consulted with only a week or two before changes are implemented. This uncertainty adds additional pressure to adjacent businesses operations; and
5. Other Canadian cities have addressed similar challenges associated with large transportation infrastructure projects. For example, the City of Montreal, QC launched a [financial assistance program \[montreal.ca\]](http://montreal.ca) aimed at reducing the impact of work sites for establishments located in areas affected by major construction. The program is geared towards establishments in an area affected by major construction. Its aim is to:
 - Mitigate the financial impacts on merchants affected by work sites.
 - Help merchants stay in business during a major infrastructure construction period.
 - Support the dynamism and commercial vitality of commercial streets under construction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff to explore options on ways to provide relief to commercial properties affected in the "cut and cover" locations along the Broadway Subway corridor, including relaxation of business property taxes, and developing a program similar to that of the City of Montreal's [Financial assistance program for businesses affected by major construction \[montreal.ca\]](http://montreal.ca).