



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Harbour Square Park Project Backgrounder

Every year, 1.3 million residents and visitors pass through the Ferry Terminal on their way to the Toronto Islands. Located at the foot of Bay and Yonge Streets, the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal is the gateway to one of Toronto's most beloved and important parks – the Toronto Island. Due to its prime location at the water and important role as a transportation hub, Waterfront Toronto is looking to enhance its presence and give the ferry terminal the prominence it deserves in welcoming residents and visitors to this cherished location.

The Jack Layton Ferry Terminal project will improve the visitor's island experience with an enhanced welcoming gateway to the Island with amenities and infrastructure to accommodate the 1.3 million people who ride the ferries annually.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION

In 2014, Waterfront Toronto collaborated with the City of Toronto to launch an Innovative Design Competition to develop a bold new vision for the long-term transformation the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and neighbouring Harbour Square Park.

33 design teams from 12 countries submitted proposals during the pre-qualification phase of the competition. The proposals were reviewed by a multidisciplinary team that included both Waterfront Toronto and City of Toronto staff and the selection process was overseen by an independent fairness advisor.

Five teams were shortlisted in January 2015 to participate in the design competition and undertook an intensive eight-week design exercise to develop their proposal. The teams presented their proposals at a public exhibition for a distinguished jury of design professionals and members of the general public. The jury reviewed the design submissions and reports and recommended one proposal to Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto for consideration.

The winning design – called Harbour Landing by West 8, KPMB, and Greenberg Consultants – features a signature waterfront park that connects seamlessly to a new terminal building. The expanded terminal building will enhance accessibility, create unobstructed waterfront views and create operational efficiencies for the ferry service. It would also offer space for new public amenities on the waterfront. The final masterplan also offers solutions to better connect the terminal site to nearby parks and public spaces and to Toronto's neighbouring downtown and central business district.

THE MASTER PLAN

In summer 2015, the winning design team began to refine their master plan for the site based on technical reviews and stakeholder and public feedback. The master plan features a larger terminal building with an accessible green roof that will double in size to accommodate the number of visitors and a larger park with better east-west connections and views of the lake. It will include multiple play areas throughout the site, new rolling hills, and improved views of the water. The long-term vision also includes expanding the site further south, building new ferry docks and finger piers that accommodate more people and make it easier to get to the ferries and the Island.

When complete, the master plan will deliver an iconic Ferry Terminal with a more welcoming and efficient queuing area connected to an enhanced Harbour Square Park. The site will promote continuous waterfront access and will provide universal access for people of all ages and abilities.

The master plan has been broken down into multiple components, each of which can be designed and built as soon as funding becomes available.



PHASE 1A



The scope for Phase 1A of the new Jack Layton Ferry Terminal will feature a new promenade to replace the worn concrete that extends south from Queens Quay at Bay Street. The promenade will guide people from Bay Street all the way to the terminal gates. The walkway will be almost doubled in width to accommodate the crowds of people heading to the ferries. A double row of new trees will be planted in soil cells along the length of the promenade. The incline of the walkway will also be removed to create a view of the lake from the corner of Bay Street and Queens Quay.

When the promenade is finished, the entrance to the terminal will be improved with a shady archway formed by a double row of trees down the expanded promenade. Ageing light standards at locations throughout the park and terminal site will also be replaced with new lights.

CONSTRUCTION

Phase 1A construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2017. Waterfront Toronto expects to reopen the main walkway for public use prior to May 2018 for the Ferry Terminal's seasonal opening.

FUNDING

The project is a multi-phase development, that will be carried out over time. Waterfront Toronto is working with the City of Toronto to develop new partnerships to complete the project, which will be delivered in phases as funding becomes available.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Communication and engagement with the public was a key part of the Innovative Design Competition. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) that included local residents, businesses and neighbourhood groups met at key points during the competition process and provided advice and feedback to the project team, the design teams and the competition jury.

The general public also played an important role in the Innovative Design Competition. A major public exhibition in March 2015 gave Torontonians an opportunity to review the design approaches and provide feedback to the jury.

The project team has met with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and the general public to get feedback on priorities throughout design development of Phase 1A.

FERRY TERMINAL INFORMATION

The Jack Layton Ferry Terminal was known as the Toronto Island Ferry Docks until 2012, when it was renamed in honour of Jack Layton. The Ferry Terminal opened in January 1972 and is located at the foot of Bay Street, just west of the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

At least 1.3 million people pass through the terminal each year. Ferry services – operated by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation division – are provided to docks at Hanlan's Point, Centre Island Park and Ward's Island on the Toronto Islands. Ferry service operates year-round service to the Toronto Island.