

NOTES FOR ROCCO ROSSI  
TORONTO MAYORAL CANDIDATE

RE: BLOOR STREET CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

BAY AND BLOOR STREETS  
TORONTO, ONT.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Thank you all for coming out.

The Toronto International Film Festival opened last night.

That means for the next eleven days, the eyes of the world are on Toronto.

And what is the world seeing?

Look around you.

Endless, open-pit mine construction, noise and gridlock.

After two years of endless construction...

Two years of endless headaches for visitors and residents alike...

And two years of cost overruns exceeding \$4.5 million...

Toronto is definitely not ready for its close up.

This is not a blooper reel. This is not extra footage.

We're being embarrassed in prime time.

It's not the workers' fault. They're putting in backbreaking shifts of 12 hours every day.

No, this mess can be traced right to City Hall.

You know, one of my favourite movies is Sunset Boulevard.

It has a classic scene where Gloria Swanson's character is asked if she used to be a big, famous actress.

"I am still big," she replies. "It's the pictures that got small."

Toronto is still big. It's City Hall that got small.

And there is no better example of this smallness – this lack of vision, lack of accountability, and lack of leadership -- at City Hall than what the whole world can see right now on Bloor Street.

And it's just one more mismanaged construction job on a walk of fame that includes the St. Clair LRT, Union Station and the Peter Street shelter.

Rob Ford didn't prevent this mess as a councillor.

He didn't ask the hard questions about scheduling, timing and co-ordination.

What makes anyone think he will be more effective as mayor?

This was George Smitherman's riding until a few months ago. What did he do to help fix this mess? Nothing.

George Smitherman is now running to be budget chief. Will he extract himself from his line by line review to notice the construction messes around town?

I am running to be your mayor.

And as your mayor I will restore vision, accountability and leadership to City Hall.

As your Mayor, we will never have another disaster like the one you see around us.

As your Mayor, when the cameras roll, we will be ready.

Projects will be properly managed like they are in the private and non-profit sector. On time and on budget.

In June, I spoke to our business improvement associations and outlined my vision for building Toronto's infrastructure in a responsible way.

I will establish a Construction Coordination Czar so that the city and contractors are all reading from the same script...so that utility companies are working with the construction crews to avoid delays.

I will protect ground-level commercial property like the great storefronts here on Bloor Street.

And I will improve the delivery times of city construction projects.

That means no more construction sites sitting idle.

No more stop and start projects. No more cost overruns.

Instead I'll deliver firm construction timelines and public reporting on delays.

There will be consequences if we miss the mark.

Toronto is a global city. We need to be ready for our close-ups...whether it's TIFF, the Pan Am games or just getting your kid to a soccer game on time.

After two years of delays, we need to take back Bloor Street.

And we can do that by taking back City Hall on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.