

Ryerson University

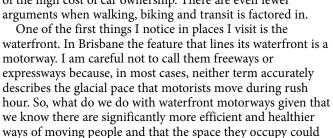
Urban Waterfront Motorways

Alex Gaio

By Alex Gaio

rban waterfront motorways are not worth our time or investment anymore. Studies have shown that they are an unnecessary, inefficient piece of infrastructure. The successful removal of San Francisco's Embarcadero, New York's West Side Elevated Highway and Seoul's Cheonggye Elevated Highway show that with adequate planning, it is no big deal1.

From 1950, for about 35 years, cities were building motorways that disconnected downtowns from their waterfronts. Today, there are few arguments to keep waterfront motorways in their current form because of the high cost of car ownership. There are even fewer



The city that first got me to pay attention to the issue of waterfront motorways was Brisbane, Australia. In 2014, Brisbane council published an updated master plan where it made "embracing the river" one of its priorities².

Toronto can learn from Brisbane. It is a city that is desperately trying to reconnect with its waterfront and a big thing that is standing in the way is the Gardiner Expressway.



Riverside Expressway in Brisbane. Here, it's stacked on top of the Riverwalk

We have a choice to make that will help determine the future livability of Toronto and I think it's why the Gardiner can join the long list of freeways without futures.

(#freewayswithoutfutures)

As more people gravitate to urban environments, they will increasingly demand more efficient uses of space, like finding alternatives to waterfront motorways, which includes urgent improvements to walking, biking and transit infrastructure.

Alex Gaio is the recipient of the 2015 Ronald M. Keeble *Undergraduate Scholarship. He is going into second year of the* Urban and Regional Planning program at Ryerson University and a student member of OPPI. Twitter alex at @alex gaio.

Endnotes

- SDOT: Urban Mobility Plan Briefing Book. (2008). Retrieved May 11, 2015, www.seattle.gov/transportation/briefingbook.htm
- Brisbane City Centre Master Plan: A Vision for our Open City. (2014). Brisbane, QLD: Brisbane City Council.



DEFINING OF TOMORROW

IBI Group is a global planning, architecture, engineering, and technology firm

INTELLIGENCE | BUILDINGS | INFRASTRUCTURE

- LAND USE / DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
- URBAN DESIGN
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- MASTER PLANNING
- TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
- REAL ESTATE, ECONOMICS + PLANNING
- MUNICIPAL FINANCE
- TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



planning@ibigroup.com www.ibigroup.com

be used in better ways?