

# FAQ: Neighbourhood Freight Forum in the DUKE Heights BIA

## What is a neighbourhood freight forum (NFF)?

A NFF brings together independent businesses and other key actors in a specific geographic area to collaboratively identify and implement solutions to improve efficiency of goods movement in their area. In the Pembina Institute's *Greening the Goods* report, one of the recommendations was the implementation of NFFs, based on research and stakeholder engagement on urban freight strategies. They have been successfully implemented in other cities across the world.

## What are the potential benefits from an NFF?

The solutions identified through an NFF can help businesses and others use the local transportation network more efficiently. This leads to reduced costs for receivers and shippers and other important benefits such as helping to address traffic congestion, road space management, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

## What kind of solutions would emerge from an NFF?

Solutions for local deliveries and goods movement may include, but are not limited to: the creation of a local delivery plan, a parking management strategy and delivery consolidation. Ultimately, it is the members of the forum, supported by outside experts, who choose the actions that are best suited to their local context. Some solutions may apply only to one part of the BIA or to specific types of businesses.

## Why the DUKE Heights Business Improvement Area (BIA)?

The DUKE Heights BIA represents over 2,500 businesses employing over 30,000 people in a wide range of manufacturing, retail/service, heavy industrial and office sectors. Located in north Toronto, the BIA spans over 720 hectares.

Goods movement is a key element of economic activity in the BIA, but there is room for improvement. In a recent survey, member businesses identified parking, congestion and deliveries management as among the top seven most important areas for improvement with respect to transportation.

## Who is leading the NFF?

The Pembina Institute will be the lead organizer of the NFF, with the financial and in-kind support and participation of The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) and DUKE Heights BIA.

## Who will participate in the NFF?

Local businesses and other key actors will be invited to become members of the NFF. As a member, they will be asked to participate in up to three working sessions per year and share information about the work with their neighbours and employees.

In addition, a Project Advisory Group has been formed. This group includes cross-sectoral representatives from freight and logistics, local and provincial governments, public health and safety, and planning and transportation. Their role is to provide strategic guidance and key information to NFF members.

## Will governments be involved in the NFF?

Yes. The project team will work with provincial and municipal government staff on a regular basis to make sure that the NFF's work is aligned with the other work of these agencies. Government staff are also participating in the Project Advisory Group.

## How long will the NFF last?

The NFF will be established in early 2017 and will continue at least until the spring of 2019. In the first two years, the NFF will focus on identifying opportunities and implementing solutions. In the final year, the project team will also focus on sharing experiences with a view to encouraging similar efforts elsewhere in the region.

### For more information

Project contact: Dianne Zimmerman, the Pembina Institute

647-459-0624

[diannez@pembina.org](mailto:diannez@pembina.org)

For more information about DUKE Heights BIA go to: [www.dukeheights.ca](http://www.dukeheights.ca) or [info@dukeheights.ca](mailto:info@dukeheights.ca)

This work is funded by The Atmospheric Fund

