

# Transit Expansion Department

## Meeting Notes

**Subject:** Ashbridges Bay Maintenance and Storage Facility – Perimeter Landscape Design

**Date:** November 9, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Toronto EMS, 895 Eastern Avenue

**File No:**

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### Present:

Name	Representing
James Brown	Brown and Storey Architects
Kim Storey	Brown and Storey Architects
Jocelyn Hirtes	Scott Torrance Landscape Architects
Akram Yoannis	Toronto Transit Commission
Rick Holli	Toronto Transit Commission
Adrienne Long	Toronto Transit Commission
David Nagler	Toronto Transit Commission
Lito Romano	Toronto Transit Commission
Sarah Currie	Toronto Transit Commission
Sameh Ghaly	Toronto Transit Commission
Rick Thompson	Toronto Transit Commission
Martin Maguire	City of Toronto Transportation Services
Andrea Old	City of Toronto Urban Design
Susan McAlpine	City of Toronto Community Planning
Nigel Taghair	City of Toronto Transportation Planning
Marc Kramer	City of Toronto Parks and Recreation
Jeff Spence	AECOM

**Distribution List:** All Attendees (see above)

Item No.	Discussion	Action By
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- David Nagler facilitated the session. He welcomed attendees and introduced staff</li><li>- Agenda presented – Presentation provided by Brown and Storey Architects, followed by question and answer session.</li><li>- TTC Chair, Karen Stintz gave remarks.</li><li>- Councillor, Mary Margaret McMahon gave remarks.</li><li>- Councillor, Paula Fletcher gave remarks.</li><li>- Kim Storey presented landscape design plan.</li><li>- Jocelyn Hirtes provided details regarding plan species around perimeter.</li></ul>	
2.	<b>Question and Answer Session</b>	

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Please advise of any errors or omissions.



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	<p>Q. Is the grass chosen so it does not attract Canada Geese?                      A. Geese are attracted to short grass and sod, grass chosen is tall grass, however will confirm.</p> <p>Q. Will plantings allow for clear vision for safety?                      A. Yes, some scrubs are waist high, most are knee length.</p> <p>Q. What about the wall? I thought it was undecided if the wall was needed?                      A. The prototype vehicles will be here shortly. They will be tested to determine if an acoustic wall is needed to comply with EA commitments and MOE standards. We are assuming a wall for acoustics or a security fence will be needed.</p> <p>Q. What are the plans for the winter, everything will be bare?                      A. Beautiful branch architecture will create depth with snow on the branches. The frieze wall will create rhythm, frequency, movement and pattern. It is designed to combat the winter dreariness.</p> <p>Q. There have been past instances where new plantings were eaten by Geese and Water Fowl.                      A. Geese eat mostly sod; they are not attracted to larger plantings. If needed a snow fence or other protection methods will be implemented.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Investigate Canada Geese effects on new plantings.</b></p> <p>Q. Have you talked to a wildlife biologist, I can introduce you to a representative from Toronto Wildlife who would be happy to discuss.                      A. Comment noted.</p> <p>Q. Concern about the wall, what are other options?                      A. Brown and Storey won the competition based on this idea. The</p>	

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	<p>wall is subtle, the frieze is fragmented, and it will create a beautiful effect. It is artistic and will be integrated with the landscape. It includes a textured surface, using light and shadow, quite innovative.</p> <p>Q. Can you tell us about lighting around the perimeter? A. Light will be mounted along the inside perimeter wall for yard operations. Street lighting will also help illuminate the area.</p> <p>Q. What is a frieze? A. The frieze is a textured, architectural, metal panel that will be mounted on the acoustic/security wall.</p> <p>Q. Why red? TTC branding? A. No, it is a complementing colour with other buildings in the area.</p> <p>Q. Is the wall susceptible to graffiti? A. It is a mosaic, mounted on the wall, well thought out and will be treated with anti-graffiti coating.</p> <p>Q. Will there be viewing slots so people can see inside to see what is going on? A. The comment is noted and opportunities for viewing slots will be reviewed.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Review opportunities for viewing slots.</b></p> <p>Q. I do not see any non- deciduous trees, why no conifers?</p> <p>Q. Are there opportunities to plant bushes/tress that look nice year- round and are viable in the winter?</p> <p><b>ACTION – Look into opportunities to plant low-level conifers or other plantings that retain colour/leaves through the winter. Friends of the Spit representative confirmed tall conifers attract</b></p>	

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	<p>owls. The proximity of conifers to the roadway could result increased rates of owl mortality or injury in the area.</p> <p>Q. I do not see any areas for waste receptacles, places for litter? A. Yes, there is a budget item for waste receptacles; we want to protect the environment.</p> <p>Q. This is a large area, where is the public washroom? A. Suggestion noted.</p> <p>Q. I thought the observatory was in an older plan for this space with amenities, not sure if this is happening? A. This is part of another conversation. Councillor McMahon commented that the observatory was a component of a different plan prior to the requirement for new streetcars and the new TTC Facility.</p> <p>Q. What about the leaves blowing and landing on tracks? A. There are many areas with tracks and trees across Toronto. We do not anticipate this being an issue. Q. Concerned about plantings beside the trail, what about growth? A. We will mitigate this through spacing.</p> <p>Q. Are you using enough topsoil to allow for trees to mature? A. Yes, we are following Toronto standards 1-2 feet of soil.</p> <p>Q. What is the timeframe for the project? A. The facility is out for tender, construction to begin in 2012, street connection to Queen Street is expected late 2013 to early 2014.</p> <p>Q. 3 questions, what about irrigation? Will there be a water fountain? Is there a plan for Queen to get the streetcars first? A. Yes, irrigation will be in place where needed. There is no water fountain in the current plan but we will note the request.</p>	

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	<p><b>ACTION – Investigate possibilities for including water fountain in the design.</b></p> <p>Q. How about bike racks? A. Yes, we will look into it with City of Toronto Transportation services.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Investigate possibilities for bike racks.</b></p> <p>Q. I thought it was a planted green wall? A. There are vines that will grow over the wall, with plantings throughout.</p> <p>Q. What is the storm water management plan? A. Storm water management in the perimeter landscaping will be through surface absorption and grading.</p> <p>Q. Can we save existing vegetation and plant elsewhere? A. Councillor McMahon mentioned that there was a proposal to schedule a day near the start of construction where the community would be invited to recover existing plants for transplant in private homes or elsewhere.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Explore transplanting existing plants.</b></p> <p>Q. Will the wall hide the building? A. Depending on where you look you will see the building; the building is designed to be ascetically pleasing. It is very attractive, featuring a sloped green roof.</p> <p>Q. Previously, TTC advised that Queen Street may be one of the last routes to receive the new low-floor streetcars. Queen should be moved up the list due to our proximity to the facility. A. At this time, the schedule for roll-out of the new vehicles onto specific routes in not yet confirmed. However, Service Planning has indicated that the Spadina line will likely accept the vehicles first. We will look into future roll out plans. This is not a decision</p>	

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	<p>which will be made by the Ashbridges Project Team. TTC Service Planning will confirm details and we will provide the information once available.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Confirm roll out for new vehicles on Queen Street.</b></p> <p>Q. The choice of plants is fascinating; can TTC have a display, or educational signs? A. Thank you for this idea. We will explore.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Look into educational signage (stand alone signs or hoarding).</b></p>	

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Signed by: Sarah Currie - 54-94

TITLE: Public Affairs Advisor – Strategic Partnerships – Transit Expansion Department

DATE: 2011-11-11

Attachment: 0

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