

Clause embodied in Report No. 6 of the Planning and Transportation Committee, which was before the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002.

11

**Leslie/Sheppard Gateway Project
West Corner of Sheppard Avenue East and Leslie Street**

(City Council on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002, deferred consideration of this Clause to the next regular meeting of City Council scheduled to be held on June 18, 2002.)

The Planning and Transportation Committee recommends that the Leslie/Sheppard Gateway Project be maintained as originally designed by the architect and re-evaluated when planting matures.

The Planning and Transportation Committee reports having requested that the following reports be submitted directly to City Council for its next meeting on May 21, 2002:

- (1) the Commissioner of Urban Development Services to report on the projected costs for planting and plant maintenance for this structure; and
- (2) the City Solicitor to enter into discussions with the Insurance and Risk Management Office of Treasury and Financial Services, the Toronto Police Services Board and Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children and report to Council on any safety concerns or potential liability issues arising therefrom.

The Planning and Transportation Committee submits the following communication (April 24, 2002) from the City Clerk:

City Council, at its meeting held on April 16, 17 and 18, 2002, referred the following Motion to the Planning and Transportation Committee:

Removal of Aesthetic Gateway Treatment - West Corner of Sheppard Avenue East and Leslie Street

Moved by: Councillor Sutherland

Seconded by: Councillor Duguid

“WHEREAS a structure was erected on the northwest corner of Sheppard Avenue and Leslie Street, referred to as an ‘aesthetic gateway treatment’ of a park entrance; and

WHEREAS a general budget for a large number of projects, and including this project, was passed by the former North York Council in September 1997; and

WHEREAS no specific details were provided, in September 1997, of the design or costs of the 'gateway treatment' project; and

WHEREAS staff neglected to advise the current Councillor for Ward 33 of the proposed construction of this project; and

WHEREAS City staff claim that they were not familiar with the revised Ward boundaries and, hence, the local Councillor for Ward 33 was not notified; and

WHEREAS, although local area residents were advised in writing of other unrelated improvements to the intersection (including bridge and sewer rehabilitation), they were not advised of the construction of this project, nor were the Executives of the local area Ratepayer and Community Interest Associations consulted or advised; and

WHEREAS the structure is a deplorable eyesore and detracts from the natural beauty of the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS I have received numerous calls, e-mails, faxes and letters from Ward 33 residents who want this structure removed immediately; and

WHEREAS petitions have been circulated and signed by hundreds of residents, requesting the immediate dismantling and removal of the structure; and

WHEREAS these residents are extremely upset about the aesthetics, but are also very concerned about potential safety issues; and

WHEREAS it is my opinion, and that of local area residents, that youths or children could climb on the structure and attempt to walk along the narrow metal edge, and possibly injure themselves; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Shepways Condominium Corporation provided the City's Legal Department with notice that they consider the structure to be potentially dangerous; and

WHEREAS the estimated cost to remove this structure is approximately \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS these monies should be found in the existing 2001 Urban Development Services budget or in the 2002 budget process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appropriate City staff immediately initiate the removal of the structure known as the gateway treatment project (including the portion that includes the concrete support pillars and the pre-treated rusted metal girder);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the cost of the dismantling and removal of the structure come out of the existing 2001 Urban Development Services Budget or their 2002 budget;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in future, staff ensure that the local Ward Councillor is advised prior to the construction commencement of such a project.”

City Council also had before it during consideration of the Motion, a report (April 2, 2002) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, entitled “Leslie/Sheppard Gateway Project (Ward 33)”.

(Report dated April 2, 2002 from the
Commissioner, Urban Development Services,
addressed to City Council)

Purpose:

This report provides the background information on the Leslie/Sheppard Gateway project and options available with respect to this structure as requested by City Council at its meeting held on February 13, 14 and 15, 2002.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the project be maintained as originally designed by the architect and re-evaluated when planting matures.

Background:

On September 17, 1997, the former North York Council approved the Sheppard Avenue East Streetscape Masterplan developed by MBTW Landscape Architects in collaboration with Berridge Lewinberg Greenberg Dark and Gabor and Marshall Macklin Monaghan. The approved Masterplan recommended the greening of the boulevards, the construction of a recreational trail on the north boulevard, valley gateways for pedestrian access into the ravine and a landscaped median along Sheppard Avenue East. The report also developed a phasing program for the streetscape project and recommended that the project be implemented in two phases. The report indicated an estimated cost of \$1.41 million for two phases of the project.

Comments:

The first phase of the project included the greening of the boulevards along Sheppard Avenue East between Leslie Street and Bayview Avenue and construction of the recreational trail on the north side of the street. This phase was implemented in 1998. The second phase of the Masterplan included the Gateways into the ravine and the Landscaped Median along Sheppard Avenue East between Leslie Street and Provost Drive.

The design of both projects, the Gateway and the Landscaped Median, was developed by following the City of Toronto standard process for retaining design consultants. The Request for Proposals was released on July 2, 1999, and all proposals were evaluated. The Terms of Reference stated that “the gateway should connect the street to the existing pedestrian route along the Don River and incorporate public amenities such as a pergola, benches and signage” as per the approved Masterplan recommendation. Architects Alliance was selected to provide the design and tender package for the Gateway project. The Terms of Reference and evaluation criteria are described in detail in the Request for Proposals released by the Purchasing Department in July 1999.

The Gateway design consists of a small open space with pathways connecting to the main trail, a seating area, and a vertical structure and planting. The Gateway structure, a beam supported by posts to be covered by vines, forms an edge for a limited portion of the ravine along Leslie Street East. The project connects the Sheppard/Leslie area to the Don River ravine and further adds to the initial intent of the Sheppard Avenue East Masterplan of greening the street.

The consultant developed design was reviewed at different stages by Works and Emergency Services, the Parks and Recreation Division of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, as well as the Toronto Conservation Authority. The project was designed to meet all relevant safety regulation standards and the tender drawings were signed by both the structural engineer and the architect. The Works and Emergency Services Department reviewed the Gateway design prior to the tendering and construction phase and stated that the structure and all associated work are safe for the road users (pedestrians and motorists). In November 1999, the drawings and tender documents were handed over to Works and Emergency Services for implementation. The Works and Emergency Services Department undertook the construction of the Gateway project, as part of a larger public works project (estimated at \$3.8 million) that was associated with the new TTC subway line. Due to unforeseen underground problems the project, which was expected to start in the fall of 1999, was delayed. The construction started in the summer of 2001 and the project was completed in December 2001. The cost of the Gateway structure was \$130,000.00.

Public Consultation Process

The preparation of the Sheppard Avenue East Streetscape Masterplan included an extensive public consultation process. On May 23, 1997, a charette was organized with representatives from the residential community, former City of North York and Metro staff. Also, the two community meetings held on May 27, 1997, and September 11, 1997, were well attended by the residents in the area.

The requests for funding presented to the Budget Committee in 1997 included the description of both phases of the project. The City of Toronto Council approved the total of \$1,510,000.00 for the first two phases of the project on April 30, 1998.

On February 13, 2001, Urban Development Services and Works and Emergency Services held a public information session on the Leslie Sheppard Environmental Assessment and Bessarion Leslie Context Plan where all components of the Sheppard project were displayed. Residents between Finch Avenue and York Mills Road, and Bayview Avenue and Don Mills Road, as well as all area Councillors were invited to that meeting. Rendered drawings of the Gateway project were displayed for information purposes and a project information sheet containing the scope of the project was also available. No negative comments were recorded.

Participants at that meeting signed up to join the Steering Committee for Bessarion-Leslie Context Plan. The Steering Committee met on April 10, 2001, when an Urban Design Group and a Transportation Work Group were formed. On May 24, 2001, participants who signed-up and the local Councillor were invited to participate in the Urban Design Work Group.

Conclusions:

No action should be taken at this time. The Gateway consists of a metal frame structure combined with landscaping that is an integral part of the project. While the metal structure and hardscape construction have been completed, the planting only occurred late last fall. The plantings will take approximately one season to get established, and two or three seasons to mature. The project should be maintained as originally designed by the architect and re-evaluated when the planting matures.

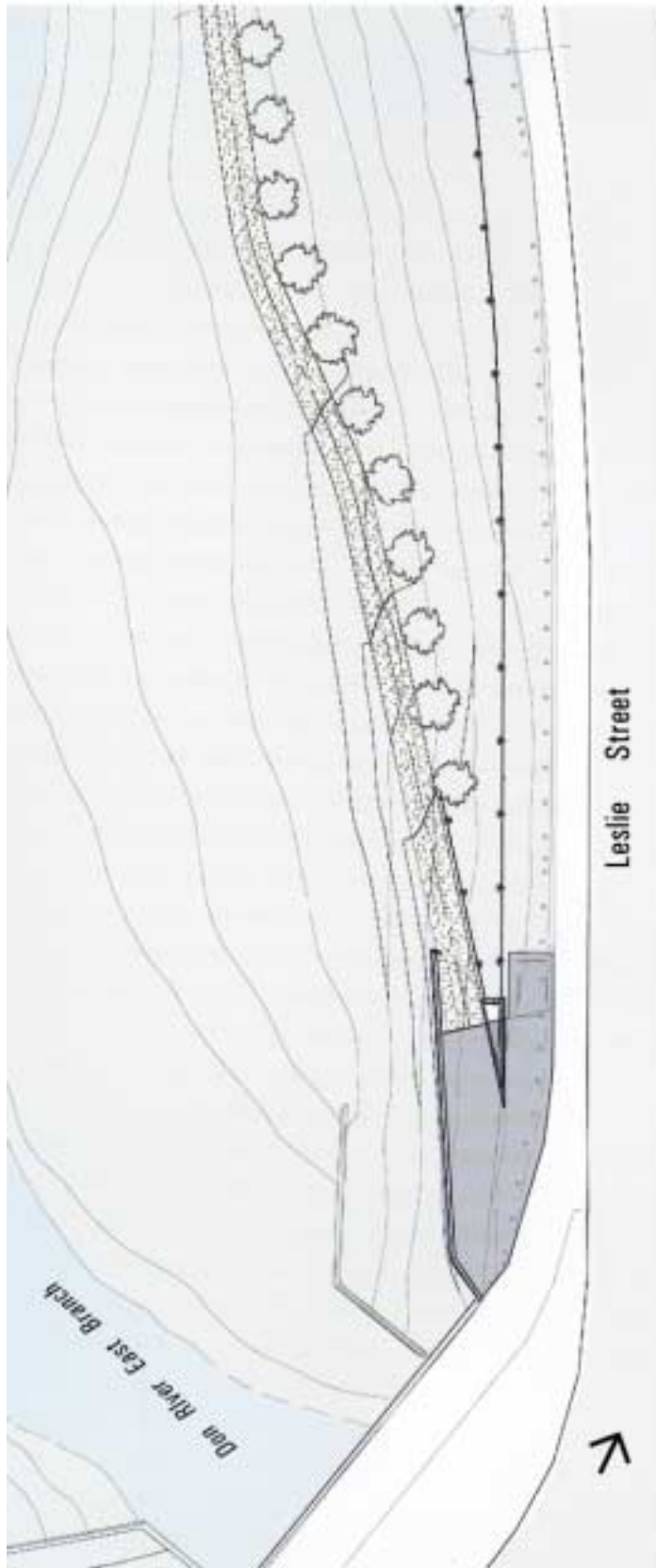
Contact:

Alka Lukatela
Program Manager, Civic Improvements
Tel: 416-392-1131
Fax: 416-392-1744
Email: alukatel@city.toronto.on.ca

Robert Freedman
Director, Urban Design
Tel: 416-392-1126
Fax: 416-392-1744
Email: rfredm@city.toronto.on.ca







Site Plan



Leslie Street - East Elevation



Leslie Sheppard Gateway Project

Item to Scale
04/12/02

File # TC-022829

Attachment **3**

The Planning and Transportation Committee also had before it the following material and copies thereof are on file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall:

- Public Information Notice dated February 7, 2001.
- Map respecting Willowdale/Don Valley East, filed by Councillor Shiner.
- Pictures filed by Councillor Shiner.
- Petition from 80 area residents supporting the removal of the steel art structure at the Don River trail entrance at Leslie and Sheppard that straddles the ward boundary.

Adrian DeCatri, Architect, Architects Alliance answered questions posed by Members of Council in connection with the foregoing matter.

(City Council on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, a report (May 3, 2002) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, reporting, as requested by the Planning and Transportation Committee, on the projected costs for planting and plant maintenance for the Sheppard/Leslie Gateway Project.)

(City Council also had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, a report (May 15, 2002) from the City Solicitor, reporting, as requested by the Planning and Transportation Committee, on any safety concerns or potential liability with respect to the aesthetic gateway treatment on the west corner of Sheppard Avenue East and Leslie Street:

(Having regard that City Council deferred consideration of this Clause to its next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 18, 2002, the aforementioned reports will be resubmitted to Council.)