

February 1, 2007

Ms. Ulli Watkiss  
City Clerk  
City of Toronto  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

At its meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, the Commission considered the attached report entitled, "Waterfront West Streetcars Environmental Assessment – Terms of Reference."

The Commission approved the Recommendation contained in the report, as listed below:

"It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive this report for information and authorize the submission of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waterfront West Streetcars Environmental Assessment (EA) for the section from Dufferin Street to Roncesvalles Avenue to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for approval.
2. Forward this report to Toronto City Council through the Planning and Growth Management Committee for approval prior to submission to the MOE."

The Commission also approved the following ancillary motion:

"That staff be requested to report back on the options to improve public transit including the feasibility of a bus rapid transit line on Dufferin Street once the Dufferin Jog is eliminated.

The foregoing is forwarded to the City Planning and Growth Management Committee for consideration and approval of the Terms of Reference document.

Sincerely,

Vincent Rodo  
General Secretary  
1-16  
Attachment

## **TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.**

**MEETING DATE:** January 31, 2007

**SUBJECT:** WATERFRONT WEST STREETCARS  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
- TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive this report for information and authorize the submission of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waterfront West Streetcars Environmental Assessment (EA) for the section from Dufferin Street to Roncesvalles Avenue to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for approval.
2. Forward this report to Toronto City Council through the Planning and Growth Management Committee for approval prior to submission to the MOE.

### **FUNDING**

There are no funding implications from this report. Sufficient funds have been included for the work related to the Environmental Assessment - Waterfront West Streetcars CNE to Roncesvalles as set out on pages 957 to 959 - Category Expansion of the TTC 2006-2010 Capital Program as approved by City Council on December 12, 2005.

The projects to build the new LRT line and provide the necessary streetcars are currently below the line under Waterfront West Streetcars, and Purchase 6 Additional LRT Cars - Waterfront West Streetcars. Funding for these requirements would need to be identified before proceeding and require an increase to the approved TTC base Capital Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1993, the Waterfront West LRT Environmental Assessment (WWLRT EA) study was undertaken to extend reserved right-of-way streetcar service from the Harbourfront area west to connect to the existing

trackage in The Queensway and to southern Etobicoke. Since that time the line has been extended in phases as far as Exhibition Place.

At its meeting of June 21, 2006, the Commission authorized retaining LEA Consultants to undertake the environmental assessment work associated with the Waterfront West Streetcars extension. The study is divided into three parts as follows:

- 1) A modification to the EA to address the expansion of the Park Lawn bus loop in Etobicoke to accommodate streetcar operation.
- 2) A modification to the EA to address the extension of the streetcar line from the current Exhibition Place streetcar loop to Dufferin Street.
- 3) An Individual Environmental Assessment to address the extension of the streetcar line from Dufferin Street to Roncesvalles Avenue.

The portion of the line from Dufferin to Roncesvalles requires an individual EA since, although studied, it was not included in the WWLRT EA undertaking approved by the MOE in 1995.

The Waterfront West Streetcar line is part of an overall plan to improve transportation in the Waterfront area and between downtown and southern Etobicoke. Significant redevelopment is taking place in western Toronto and improved transportation facilities are a major element in supporting an increased population within the City. The City's Official Plan is based on increasing travel by non-auto based modes. The transit first approach of having a high quality transit service in place, to encourage a high level of transit use when new developments in an area are being occupied, is strongly supported by the Commission and the City.

## **DISCUSSION**

Provincial Ministry of the Environment approval for the construction of transit facilities, such as the Waterfront West streetcar, requires an individual environmental assessment study.

The first step in this individual environmental assessment process is the preparation of a "Terms of Reference" for the project from Dufferin Street to Roncesvalles Avenue. The approach to the Terms of Reference has been developed based on meetings with the Ministry of the Environment staff in 2006. This work has now been completed as described below and in the attached Terms of Reference document.

The second phase of the project involves the preparation of the individual environmental assessment. The Terms of Reference describe the process for conducting the study. The purpose of the study is:

***To determine the appropriate alignment to connect the Waterfront West streetcar line from its current terminus at Exhibition Place to the existing reserved right-of-way trackage at Queen and Roncesvalles while meeting the access needs of the study and achieving the City's objectives for design and environmental excellence.***

The study will assess planning and design alternatives to achieve this objective and compare these to the "do-nothing" option. The study will also determine the environmental impacts of the options assessed, along with the identification of mitigating measures for any adverse environmental impacts of the preferred alternative. An integral part of the study will be a consultation program during the course of the study including public meetings at three key milestones.

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE - Dufferin Street to Roncesvalles Avenue

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for an individual Environmental Assessment (EA) study sets out the process by which the study will be undertaken. The ToR, on approval by the Ministry of the Environment, represents an agreement between the Commission and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) regarding the process to be followed in completing the study.

The undertaking described in the Terms of Reference for the Dufferin to Roncesvalles Individual Environmental Assessment is to provide the missing link connection between Dufferin Street and Roncesvalles Avenue. Options to be considered against a "do-nothing" alternative will include the following potential corridors (attached ToR Figures 3-1 to 3-3):

1. Lake Shore Boulevard Corridor (south of Gardiner Expressway)
2. CN Rail Corridor (north of rail corridor)
3. Dufferin Street and King Street Corridor

In developing the Terms of Reference, over 25,000 flyers were distributed in the study area as well as an advertisement placed in Now Magazine inviting the public to two meetings on November 27 and 28, 2006 to review the study material and provide comment for input to the ToR. The meetings were attended by a total of 60 people as well as Deputy Mayor Pantalone and Councillor Perks. In addition, an open house was held at City Hall for Councillors to review the study material. Deputy Mayor Pantalone and five councillors attended including Councillors Perks, Watson, Saunderson, Carroll and Milczyn.

As detailed in the ToR Public Consultation Record, the public generally expressed support for the project to proceed as soon as possible.

#### Next Steps

The Terms of Reference will be forwarded to the Planning and Growth Management Committee of the City of Toronto. Any comments received through this process will be incorporated into the Terms of Reference document, as appropriate, along with a record of the

document's formal approval. Staff will then submit the document to the Ministry of the Environment for their approval. If substantive changes are requested by the Planning and Growth Management Committee, staff will report on these changes to the Commission before the document is submitted to the MOE.

The submission and Public Notification process includes the following steps:

1. Two weeks prior to formal ToR submission, submit the "Terms of Reference Summary Form" to MOE staff, to allow posting of the ToR on the Ministry Web Site;
2. Submit ToR to Minister of the Environment;
3. Publish Notice of Submission in the Toronto Star;
4. Deliver copies of the ToR to places of public record identified in the Summary Form (such as local libraries and Municipal Clerks' offices); and
5. Provide copies of the ToR to members of the Government Review Team (which are ministries and agencies having jurisdiction over issues to be addressed in the EA).

Under the Ontario EA Act, the Ministry is required to complete the review within 12 weeks, commencing the Friday of the week the ToR is submitted. Upon approval of the ToR, the EA Study may proceed. The study, and the associated public consultation process, is expected to take approximately nine months to one year to complete. This will be followed by an MOE review period of 30 weeks. EA approval is expected to be obtained in the late summer of 2008.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

In accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, the attached Terms of Reference must be submitted and approved by the Ministry of the Environment as part of an Individual Environmental Assessment process.

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January 9, 2007  
50-71-75  
1101420

Attachment: Waterfront West Streetcars Extension Draft Terms of  
Reference (ToR) January 2007 (Note: The Public  
Consultation Record is available at General  
Secretary's office)