



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

December 7, 2021

Mayor Tory and Executive Committee:

RE EX 28-14 Ontario Line Downtown Stations - Temporary Road Closures and Community Impacts

As the Vice- President and Chair of the Development committee of the Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association, I am here on behalf of hundreds of residents in and around the Distillery District. The citizens of our downtown core need a focussed City plan to ensure that we can actually live safely through the proposed construction, not just by Metrolinx but also by the growing number of developments in our neighbourhoods.

The Ontario Line is only one of many massive developments affecting our lives in the downtown East side. The street closures for the Ontario Line construction are an intensification of an already incredibly difficult situation for residents in the Distillery. I understand that the City's power in this situation is limited but if we are not protected in some way, the health and safety impacts on our community will be extreme.

To approve this report is to ignore the broader neighbourhood context around it. Our neighbourhood already has three intense developments (Blocks 3, 4, 7, 10 and 20), plus a hotel approved by the Provincial Land Tribunal. Three more high rise buildings are starting development south of the Distillery on Parliament Street, which will be one of the major arteries used by the construction vehicles at the Corktown Station. We anticipate over 30,000 new residential units will be added to our community (even before the additional units created by the Transit Oriented Communities are built) in the next decade with an enormous increase in pedestrian, bicycle and automobile traffic.

We have had two tragic deaths caused by construction vehicles on our local streets in the recent past; we see daily near-accidents with cyclists and pedestrians; we see parking and loading violations, with minimal enforcement, causing endangerment to cyclists as well as traffic stoppages. Vision Zero cannot be achieved without your leadership to ensure that the intensification of traffic from construction and development does not create an impossible and unsafe environment for the citizens of this city.

We all know that our residents are at risk for greater health problems than in other parts of the GTA. Noise, dust, lack of green space and on and on. I ask you to consider them as well as you make decisions that could exacerbate the environmental issues that plague us.

As citizens of a community that has built a strong social network in the face of encroaching over-development, we ask you as our representatives to ensure that City staff develop a plan which will protect our health and safety over the next seven years while the Ontario Line is being built. After all, this seven year period does not include the following years during which the Transit Oriented Community will be built on top of the Metrolinx line.

We need a comprehensive traffic plan developed in collaboration with the residential, business, institutional and cultural communities in the West Don Lands, the Distillery District and the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood that will:

- map anticipated private and public sector construction over the next decade not just current projects
- identify construction traffic routes and protocols throughout the neighbourhood, including:
 - substantially reduced traffic speeds in areas where construction traffic is anticipated
 - designated truck routes
 - identification and protection of safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists
 - restricted hours for construction vehicle movements (especially dealing with idling queued vehicles) and identifying locations for waiting vehicles to be accommodated
- **and develop a comprehensive enforcement strategy**

We need Council to direct Staff to immediately bring together representatives from our communities with developers and traffic planners to create planning and enforcement protocols that will protect our residents.

Please support us.

Thank you.



Diana Belshaw

Vice-President and Chair Development Committee, Gooderham & Worts Development Association