

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM28.17	ACTION			Ward: All
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Ontario Line Update - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council reiterate its support for a below ground subway in the segment of the former Relief Line from Pape to the Don Yards and that Metrolinx, the Ontario Provincial Government and the Federal Government be formally advised of City Council's decision.

Summary

At its meeting of October 29, 2019, City Council adopted a number of recommendations regarding safety concerns and community impacts of the Ontario Line. Subsequently, at its January 29, 2020 meeting, Council took further steps to strengthen the Ontario Line's community consultation process including calling for a full, formal Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) and to include consideration of alternatives for the technology, station locations and alignment, including putting underground those sections proposed to be above ground in the Ontario Line Initial Business Case.

The completed and fully approved Environmental Assessment for the TTC's Relief Line, done by the City of Toronto, the TTC and Metrolinx, deemed the appropriate rapid transit solution to be an underground line from Pape Station to Queen and Yonge.

In the takeover of the project by Metrolinx an abbreviated Environmental Assessment was undertaken without the full community process enabled by a full TPAP. It has been difficult to have a cohesive and public airing of the impacts.

However it is now clear it is impossible to add 3 new tracks (2 additional tracks for the Ontario Line and 1 additional track for GO expansion) to the existing 3 tracks in the corridor without a considerable negative impact on City assets - particularly the 7 local parks and the public realm. The required crash wall and noise mitigation wall has to be built straight up from the Metrolinx property line in the parks and possibly up against Jimmie Simpson Community Centre. As well, further City parks space will be required for the necessary berm at the foot of these walls.

There is only one full Environmental Assessment for this segment which City Council has fully endorsed and approved. Metrolinx needs to know that City Council's preference remains an underground segment for this segment of the (former) Relief Line and new Ontario Line.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.17