

May 20, 2004

## **St. Clair streetcar line study gives public more time for comment**

The schedule for the St. Clair Avenue West streetcar line study has been extended to allow the public more time to give their feedback on possible project designs.

Construction to replace a 6.7 kilometre section of the St. Clair Avenue West streetcar tracks and reconstruct the trackbed is scheduled to begin in 2005. The cost of the project is estimated at \$25 million to replace the track and an additional \$7 -10 million for improved transit, urban design and public art. One of the design options being considered is to create a dedicated right-of-way for streetcars. Preservation and rejuvenation of the unique character of the St. Clair West corridor is an important aspect of the project.

Regardless of the design recommendation that is made, the reconstruction is necessary because the tracks are in very poor condition and must be replaced. The current state of the tracks cause delays in service, require frequent and costly repairs and are damaging streetcars and equipment.

To date, the project team has received over 400 emails, 250 comment sheets, and 100 telephone calls, plus feedback given at public meetings that were attended by almost 1300 people. In addition, over 4000 responses to surveys of businesses, residents and customers have been received. Two newsletters containing project information have been sent to 50,000 residents and businesses in the area.

Rod McPhail, project director, said, "We have received valuable feedback from the public at 28 different meetings and workshops over the past six months. The ideas brought forward so far have helped us to set priorities and have influenced the project's direction. The ideas also continue to help shape the project design."

Additional meetings are being scheduled to ensure everyone who works, lives, has a business or an interest in the study area has opportunity for input. Community representatives will attend a workshop the second week of June to evaluate the proposed designs for the streetcar line. A fourth round of public meetings during the third week of June is being planned and, starting on July 5, there will be two weeks of community consultation to further discuss the recommended design.

The results of the consultation and the recommended design will be presented to a joint meeting of the Planning & Transportation and Works Committees and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) the week of September 13. At that time public deputations will also be heard. A final report will go to City Council for consideration at its September meeting.

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Toronto's Official Plan, passed by Council in November 2002, focuses on city-building and identifies St. Clair Avenue West as one of many avenues for future growth. The Official Plan also focuses on high-quality transit on the city's major avenues and making transit a more attractive option for travel. The TTC's Growth Ridership Strategy compliments the Official Plan. St. Clair Avenue West will be the first major transit priority project to be considered by Council under the Official Plan.

Other significant transit priority projects that the City and TTC are jointly working on are the connection between Downsview Station and York University; Yonge Street between Finch Station and Steeles Avenue as part of an inter-regional connection to York Region; and enhanced transit services along Don Mills Road between Steeles Avenue and downtown.

For more details about the St. Clair Avenue West streetcar line visit the project Web site [www.Toronto.ca/planningstudies](http://www.Toronto.ca/planningstudies)

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