



ST. CLAIR EA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP BACKGROUND INFORMATION
MONDAY, JANUARY 26th, 2004

EA Study

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and City of Toronto are currently conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C) to identify and evaluate options for improved streetcar operations on St. Clair Avenue West between Gunns Road (just west of Keele Street) to just east of Yonge Street.

Why is the study being done now?

The streetcar tracks along St. Clair Avenue West are in very poor condition and are due to be completely replaced in 2005. The study is looking at ways to improve transit operations along St. Clair Avenue beyond replacing the streetcar tracks. The EA Study will look at how we can provide better transit operations while at the same time considering the needs of others who use the road including pedestrians, automobiles, delivery vehicles, and cyclists. The Environmental Assessment Study will look at the many related concerns to providing better transit operations including access to parking, access to neighbourhoods and businesses, overall traffic safety and community revitalization and business impacts.

Overview of Study Process

Completed In

Phase 1: Determine the extent of existing problems and opportunities,
future transportation demands, and establish the Problem Statement December 2003

Phase 1 Public Meetings - October 16 and 21, 2003

Phase 2: Analyse and evaluate alternative solutions based on their impacts
on the transportation network, physical, social, economic and natural
environment, and their ability to satisfy concerns identified in the Problem Statement. March 2004

Phase 2 Community Workshop – January 26, 2004

Phase 2 Public Meetings – February 17 and 19, 2004

Phase 2 Community Workshop – mid-March 2004

Phase 2 Public Meetings – March 30 and April 1, 2004 (tentative)

Phase 3: Develop and analyse alternative design concepts May 2004

Phase 3 Public Meetings – May 2004

Phase 4: Present to Committee/TTC and Council July 2004
Council Decision July 2004
Prepare Environmental Study Report August 2004
File for review with Ministry of the Environment August 2004



Study Progress to Date

Major tasks completed to date include:

1. A study design has been created.
2. The extent of existing problems & opportunities, and future transportation demands has been determined.
3. A Problem Statement has been established (see below).
4. The first round of public meetings was held in October 2003.
5. The team has met with numerous community groups to hear their comments.
6. A draft list of project alternatives has been developed.
7. A draft list of project evaluation criteria has been assembled.

Problem Statement

The St. Clair streetcar route carries about half of all trips made on most of St. Clair Avenue West, at various times of the day. The quality, speed, and reliability of this transit service are degraded, at various times of the day and week, by recurring obstruction and delay caused by other vehicular traffic. These detrimental effects of traffic on the streetcar service are expected to worsen over time, because traffic volumes and congestion will increase due to forecast increases in population and employment in and around the City over the next 20-30 years.

Toronto's Official Plan aims to make more effective use of the City's existing road capacity and to reduce congestion, pollution and energy consumption by encouraging more people to travel by transit. This requires enhancing the attractiveness of bus and streetcar services through improving their frequency, speed, reliability and comfort. The purpose of this study is to identify how to bring about such improvements to streetcar service on St. Clair Avenue West in a manner that recognizes the needs of other road users, reflects the revitalization objectives of the communities along St. Clair, contributes to the City's community-building objectives, respects the policies of the Plan, and will be sustainable under future conditions.

Next Steps

The project team is working to gather more input from the St. Clair communities on the factors to be used in evaluating the alternatives through tonight's workshop and a second round of public meetings in February.



Community Involvement is Needed

Your input and ideas are crucial to selecting the best possible solution for improving transit operations on St. Clair Avenue West. Tonight is an excellent opportunity to discuss your views with the project team and other members of the community. You are welcome to provide your comments at any time during the study by emailing your comments by:

- 1) Emailing your comments and suggestions to stclairwestea@toronto.ca
- 2) Providing a submission by fax, TTY or by mail to the following address:
James Yacoumidis
Works and Emergency Services, Public Consultation and Community Outreach
55 John Street, 19th Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6

Fax: 416-392-2974, TTY: 416-397-0831
- 3) Contacting the Public Consultation Coordinator for the study, James Yacoumidis at 416-392-4331
- 4) 24-hour comment lines are also available in Italian and Portuguese. If you would like to ask a question or leave a comment in Italian, please call 416-392-3760. To ask a question or leave a comment in Portuguese, please call 416-338-2850.

Study Website

All materials from the public meetings and community workshops will be posted on the City of Toronto website at www.toronto.ca/planningstudies