
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM54.30	ACTION			Ward:11
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Confirmation of the City's Interest in Use of the Weston Tunnel Cover - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Doug Ford

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Doug Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council confirm to Metrolinx the City's intention to use the north and south ends of the Weston Tunnel Cover that are not required by the Toronto Catholic District School Board for the new St. John the Evangelist Catholic School.

Summary

As part of Metrolinx's Georgetown South Project, they have lowered the rail corridor from Lawrence Avenue West to Weston Road, and are covering the corridor between Church Street and King Street.

A number of meetings have been held between the City, Metrolinx, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, to discuss the future use of the tunnel cover.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is in the process of executing agreements with Metrolinx for use of the middle portion of the tunnel cover to provide additional green space for the students of the new St. John the Evangelist Catholic School planned for construction in 2015, leaving north and south ends of the tunnel cover available for the City's use.

Past consultation with the community revealed that the preferred use for the north end of the tunnel cover would be for a community garden. Through discussion with Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Parks Development and Capital Projects Division, the opportunity to acquire lands adjacent to the south end of the tunnel cover has been identified, which would accommodate a children's play area

A community meeting was held earlier this year on April 9, 2014 at which the plans for the new St. John the Evangelist School and proposed use for the south end of the tunnel cover were presented to the community. At this meeting, the community voiced strong support for the City's proposed use of the south end of the tunnel cover. At this meeting, the community also voiced interest in the City using the north end of the tunnel cover for a dog off-leash area, of which there are currently none in Ward 11.

This matter is urgent as Metrolinx will not formalize the agreement for use of the tunnel cover with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, until the City has confirmed its intention to use the remnant north and south ends of the tunnel cover.

(Submitted to City Council on July 8 and 9, 2014 as MM54.30)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM54.30