
City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM5.33	ACTION			Ward:18
--------	--------	--	--	---------

Metrolinx Go Train Bridge Plan - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Cesar Palacio

** 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 Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Cesar Palacio, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to ensure that land-use planning (including grade separation underground or above ground) and urban design considerations are part of the EA process being carried out by Metrolinx for the rail grade separation project at Dupont St. and Lansdowne Avenue.

Summary

Metrolinx is embarking on a Environmental Assessment study for a rail grade separation project in the area between Dupont Street and Davenport Road just west of Lansdowne Avenue. The proposed project may include building a 1.5 kilometre bridge to carry Metrolinx's Barrie GO train line over the Canadian Pacific railway, a busy freight line.

Due to its height and bulk, this proposed bridge will create a significant impact on the surrounding, largely residential, neighbourhoods. The appropriate planning of this infrastructure must include measures to mitigate these impacts.

The City of Toronto has invested heavily in the communities that would be affected by this proposal, including land revitalization through local parks and new community services in the surrounding neighbourhoods. As a result, City Planning has a critical role in diagnosing the potential impact to resident and community interests within the EA process, as well as identifying urban design opportunities afforded through the proposal.

Among the significant concerns directly affecting city and community interests as a result of this proposal are: vibration, community division, land-use, visual/aesthetic issues, compromised land development opportunities and public safety concerns.

The process which Metrolinx is currently engaged in is designed to determine the most appropriate option to accomplish its Provincial transportation mandate. The interests of Toronto's community planning, however, are best represented by City staff's involvement in this process.

Should, upon a fulsome and accurate understanding of these city impacts, the EA process conclude the Davenport Diamond is the most appropriate option, City staff must have an opportunity to identify what new measures can be invoked to mitigate negative community impacts and foster better use of the transformed landscape.