

Oakwood Station Traffic Management Update

Date: May 26, 2017

To: North York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District

Wards: Ward 15

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to respond to the direction of North York Community Council from its meeting of May 2, 2017 to report to the June 13, 2017 meeting of North York Community Council to review alternate plans for construction staging and lay-down areas at Oakwood Station in order to support the construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT). The report informs Council that the Eglinton Avenue West and Oakwood Avenue west side (north-south running) intersection crosswalk will be maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District recommends that:

1. This report be received for information by North York Community Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with this report. Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS), the contractor for this Metrolinx project, is required to implement all aspects of construction traffic management plans as conditions of permit approval.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 31, 2016, City Council adopted item PW11.5 entitled Metrolinx LRT Projects – Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Road Closures Up To And Including 365 Consecutive Days for the Metrolinx Crosstown LRT. This authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services, to temporarily close any highway or part of a highway, until January 1, 2022 for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days as required for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT project.

The authorization did not extend to the F. G. Gardiner Expressway, the Don Valley Parkway, the W. R. Allen Road, Black Creek Drive or Highway 27. As part of the action, it was noted that Metrolinx has developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program utilizing a variety of meeting techniques to keep City Councillors and their staff apprised of plans and developments related to the project. From this plan, the information outlined in this report has been developed. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW11.5>

At its meeting on July 12, 2016, City Council adopted item PW14.10 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Corridor Long-Term Temporary Road Closures and Temporary Traffic Signal Approval. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW14.10>

At its meeting on December 13, 2016, City Council adopted item PW 17.9 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Traffic and Parking Amendments. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW17.9>

At its meeting on February 22, 2017, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted item TE 22.58 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Traffic Operations and Parking Amendments (Ward 21). The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE22.58>

At its meeting on March 9, 2017, City Council adopted item TE 22.57 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Amendment to Traffic Regulations (Ward 21). The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE22.57>

At its meeting on April 4, 2017, Etobicoke York Community Council adopted item TE 21.27 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Road Closure of Yarrow Road (Ward 12). The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EY21.27>

At its meeting on May 2, 2017, Etobicoke York Community Council adopted item EY 22.16 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Conversion of Dynevor Road to a Two-way Street (Ward 17). The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EY22.16>

At its meeting on May 2, 2017, North York Community Council adopted item NY 22.23 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Long-Term Temporary Construction Traffic Operations and Parking Amendments (Ward 15). In addition to the adoption of the recommended items, North York Community Council also directed Transportation Services staff, in consultation with Metrolinx, to review alternate plans for construction staging and lay-down areas at Oakwood Station during Stage 3A and report back to the June 13, 2017 North York Community Council. The Community Council decision can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.NY22.23>

COMMENTS

Background

The construction of the Metrolinx ECLRT is a complex multi-year project being undertaken by CTS. The duration of construction activities is currently planned to continue until 2021. Construction activities will temporarily reduce the number of traffic lanes through intersections (often to only one lane in each direction) and thus reduce sidewalk space for pedestrians and road space for vehicles.

The development of construction traffic management plans is required to mitigate the impacts of station construction and the plans become an integral part of the road occupancy permit submission. Adherence to the approved plan is a requirement of permit approval. Work on site cannot proceed until the appropriate permits have been issued for each location.

The recent focus on construction traffic management has been the continued development of plans at Oakwood Station.

Oakwood Station Traffic Management

As a result of the recent construction activities occurring on Eglinton Avenue West in the vicinity of Oakwood Avenue, a number of traffic management strategies have been suggested for consideration by Councillor Colle during Stage 3A of the station Traffic Management Plan. The proposals included the occupation or reopening of certain sections of Eglinton Avenue West, Times Road and the adjacent laneway. Of prime consideration is the temporary pedestrian access to the businesses on the north side of Eglinton Avenue West, between Times Road and the primary station access. The original CTS construction traffic management plan effectively would have created a pedestrian "dead end" on the sidewalk in front of these stores. After due consideration of Councillor Colle's concerns and ideas, CTS has identified a strategy to maintain the traffic signal crosswalk immediately west of Oakwood Avenue, and thus maintain a continuous pathway across the business frontages accessible from either end.

Eglinton Avenue West and Oakwood Avenue are classified as major arterial and minor arterial, respectively, in the City's Road Classification System. Both streets have maximum speed limits of 50 km/h and sidewalks located on both sides.

The action that was proposed and agreed upon by all parties engaged in consultation of Councillor Colle's suggestion is to maintain the Eglinton Avenue West at Oakwood Avenue west side crosswalk. The maintenance of this signalized crosswalk at an existing traffic signal will be an integral condition of a revised road occupation permit, to be issued by the Transportation Services Division. No Council authority or approval is required for maintenance of this crosswalk.

Due to the nature of the construction site logistics, the west side crosswalk of the Eglinton Avenue West at Oakwood Avenue intersection is required to be temporarily realigned approximately 7 metres westward.

To ensure pedestrian safety, the work zone will be configured in such a manner where the necessary sightlines will be provided for the crosswalk. CTS has confirmed that this crosswalk will be maintained during the subsequent 3B construction stage as well.

Consultation

Councillor Colle's request was discussed and considered during the monthly Metrolinx, CTS and City project stakeholder meeting on May 3, 2017. At that time, CTS representatives commented on the various elements affecting the station construction area suggested by Councillor Colle, and the Councillor engaged directly in the discussion.

The Rapid Transit Community Relations team at Metrolinx has developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program to keep local Councillors apprised of plans and developments related to the project. The consultation strategy includes one-on-one briefings of Councillors to address specific milestone events and emerging issues, as well as stakeholder meetings as needed. The discussion contained in this report has been shared directly with Councillor Colle.

The construction staging of the LRT stations, proposed and required by CTS, and the traffic management strategies associated with the occupation of the roadway discussed in this report, have been reviewed by Transportation Services staff and Metrolinx. There will be opportunities to refine the traffic controls should unforeseen issues arise over the multi-year duration of construction.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Hiller
Acting Director,
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Oakwood Avenue Crosswalk