



## REPORT FOR ACTION

# Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT: Long-Term Road Closures and Traffic Regulation Amendments

**Date:** June 25, 2018

**To:** Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** 21, 22, 25, 26

### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a series of traffic amendments, including the temporary long-term closures of selected roadways and sidewalks, as required for the purpose of construction of the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) project.

Specifically, this report recommends the temporary long-term closure (up to twenty (20) months) of the following portions of Eglinton Avenue East to support the construction of the at-grade section of the ECLRT:

- One eastbound and two westbound traffic lanes between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road; and
- The south sidewalk of Eglinton Avenue East between Brentcliffe Road and Don Mills Road.

This report also recommends the continuation of several side-street closures that will allow local residents only to allow station construction during the next stages of this evolving design-build project:

- *Cedarville Station* - Extension of four (4) years to December 31, 2022 required to support station construction scheduling:
  - Strathearn Road, at the south limit of Eglinton Avenue West right-of-way. Access will continue for local residents only.
  - Everden Road, at the south limit of Eglinton Avenue West right-of-way. Access will continue for local residents only.
- *Eglinton (Yonge) Station*- Extension of one (1) year required to support station construction scheduling:
  - Cowbell Lane, from Eglinton Avenue East to a point 100m south thereof. Traffic will continue for local residents only.

Lastly, this report recommends a series of further traffic regulations, including temporary traffic control signals and changes to turn restriction changes, to support local traffic access near Leaside, and Cedervale Stations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council temporarily close, to vehicular traffic, one eastbound and two westbound traffic lanes of Eglinton Avenue between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road from July 30, 2018, up to and including March 30, 2020, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor- at-grade section.
2. City Council temporarily close, to pedestrian traffic, the south sidewalk of Eglinton Avenue East between Brentcliffe Road and Don Mills Road, from July 30, 2018, up to and including March 30, 2020, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor- at-grade section.
3. City Council close, to vehicle traffic, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor:
  - a) Strathearn Road, from Eglinton Avenue West to a point of 10 metres south thereof, from July 30, 2018, up to and including December 31, 2022.
  - b) Everden Road, from Eglinton Avenue West to a point 10 metres south thereof, from July 30, 2018, up to and including December 31, 2022.
4. City Council close, to vehicle and pedestrian traffic, Cowbell Lane, from Eglinton Avenue East to a point 100 metres south thereof, from July 30, 2018, up to and including July 30, 2019, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor.
5. City Council authorize the installation of a temporary traffic control signal at the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Roehampton Avenue from July 30, 2018, up to and including July 30, 2019.
6. City Council permanently rescind the existing northbound through restriction, on Everden Road from a point 70 metres south of Eglinton Avenue West, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday, except public holidays (Police Vehicles Excepted).

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with this report. Metrolinx's contractor Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS) is required to implement all recommendations as conditions of permit approval, funded from the ECLRT project budget.

The Interim Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting of May 12, 2015, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE6.49, and at its meeting of January 19, 2016, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE13.83, City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, respecting Everden Road, under the delegated authority of Sections 27-149B and 27-152 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, by inserting Entry Prohibited in § 950-1324, at Everden Road north of a point 70 metres south of Eglinton Avenue West, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mon. to Sat. except public holidays (Police Vehicles Excepted). The by-law amendment can be found at: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/bylaws/2016/law0065.pdf>

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 Council decision can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW11.5>

## COMMENTS

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### **Project Status**

All station sites along the tunnel portion of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project are at critical stages of construction. The transfer of construction sites from the tunnel contractor to CTS is complete, and construction areas previously occupied by the tunnel contractor are now being utilized by CTS in their construction traffic management plans. Designs for the majority of the sites along the underground segment are at 100% review stage; however, CTS continues to conduct critical utility relocation work at multiple sites as they undertake station construction in parallel.

Preliminary work on the "at-grade" portion of ECLRT is progressing between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road, and between Victoria Park Avenue and Kennedy Road.

A brief description of each construction zone impacted by the recommendations in this report is given below:

### **Temporary Long-Term Closures**

The at-grade portion of the ECLRT consists of four total sections, the first of which runs from Brentcliffe Road to Don Mills Road. This section includes notable constraints such as the West Don River and Celestica bridges, as well as the Canadian Pacific Rail overpass. For the ECLRT project, Eglinton Avenue East must be reconstructed across its entire width, so portions of the road and sidewalk must be closed and occupied for lengthy periods of construction.

The pre-construction alignment of Eglinton Avenue in this area provided three travel lanes in each direction between Leslie Street and Don Mills. In order to facilitate the construction of the at-grade portion of the LRT, it is necessary to close one eastbound and two westbound traffic lanes between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road. Eglinton Avenue will continue to operate with two travel lanes in the eastbound and one travel lane in the westbound direction between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road to facilitate access for emergency vehicles.

## **Continuation of Previous Road Closures**

### *Cedarville Station*

The current construction activity is excavation and shoring that require, the closure of roadways in the vicinity of the station to manage traffic flow as effectively as possible and facilitate construction:

CTS has to perform a variety of station construction activities on the Eglinton Avenue road allowance immediately adjacent to both Everden Road and Strathearn Road, including piling and installation of the dewatering system so the extension of the existing temporary closure of parts of both Everden Road and Strathearn Road is required.

### *Eglinton (Yonge) Station*

During multiple construction excavation stages, east-west traffic is aligned along the north side of Eglinton Avenue East, while the south side is used for stage-specific construction activities, requiring the multi-year closure of the north end of Cowbell Lane, from Eglinton Avenue East to 100 metres south thereof.

## **Traffic Regulation Amendments**

### *Leaside Station*

The initial construction methodology for Leaside Station was a combination of "cut and cover" west of Bayview Avenue and mining to the east. CTS engineers have had to modify the construction strategy to the east to "cut and cover" methodology to protect the integrity of the utilities located above the Leaside station box.

Accordingly, a revised traffic configuration is required which has been discussed with the Councillors, Metrolinx, CTS and Transportation Services staff. The new traffic configuration may create delays for the eastbound to northbound left turn within the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Eglinton Avenue East for a period of one year. This will be mitigated by the temporary placement of a traffic control signal at Bayview Avenue and Roehampton Avenue in order to provide better opportunities for traffic to make the left-turn movement from Roehampton Avenue to go north on Bayview Avenue towards Sunnybrook Hospital.

## **Community and Councillor Engagement Process**

The Rapid Transit Community Relations team at Metrolinx have 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. Since January of 2016, separate regularly-scheduled monthly Councillor and Stakeholder meetings (including local MPPs, local Councillors, Metrolinx, CTS Staff and City Staff) have been facilitated across the corridor. Key stakeholders,

such as TTC staff, are updated and consulted frequently, often several times each week.

The Metrolinx consultation strategy includes one-on-one briefings of Councillors to address specific milestone events and emerging issues. Community outreach and Business Improvement Area meetings, plus Construction Liaison Committee meetings (which include BIAs and local businesses), will continue to be scheduled throughout the long-term construction period to provide information and address current concerns and issues as they arise. The broad construction traffic management strategies have been shared with the attendees at these meetings by way of presentations made by members of the Crosslinx Transit Solutions design team, Metrolinx and City staff.

Specific details of the traffic management plans are discussed with the local Councillors as they are prepared and evolve. Metrolinx, CTS and City staff will continue to work with local Councillors to address these issues in a timely manner.

Respecting consultation with City Council members and their staff on issues presented in this report, Councillors Burnside, Jaye Robinson and Matlow were briefed on April 18, 2018 as to the next stage of construction at the Leaside Station, and the option for traffic management. Staff conducted follow up consultation with the councillors prior to finalizing the conditions of permit issuance.

Details of the complex staging at the Cedarvale station are the subject of the monthly Stakeholder meetings, routinely attended by councillors and their staff. The strategies involving the closure the Everden and Strathearn Roads were the subject of a meeting with Councillor Mihevc on May 4, 2018, and subsequent discussions and email exchanges.

Similarly the construction phasing at the Eglinton Station, east of Yonge Street, has been an agenda item during the monthly stakeholder meetings, and the subject of direct and frequent email communication between Councillor Matlow's office and the project team. In addition, CTS has consulted with Councillor Burnside with respect to the construction strategies on Eglinton Avenue between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road.

In all cases, when a significant change is planned at any of the construction sites, Metrolinx issues public notices in advance of the work, both on their website and delivered door-to-door. Major changes are also noted to the news media, and reported on television and radio.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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