

# West Don Lands | Committee

Citizens for the Old Town /  
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Corktown Residents & Business  
Association

Distillery Historic District

Dixon Hall

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

Friends of Corktown Common

Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood  
Association

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood  
Association

Task Force to Bring Back the Don

June 5, 2019

Members of the Executive Committee:

## Re. EX6.5 Status Update – Toronto-Ontario Transit Responsibilities Realignment Review

West Don Lands Committee wishes to commend both the City of Toronto and the Ontario government for their commitments to funding public transit. At the same time, we wish to offer a note of caution on the proposed Ontario Line.

The benefits of the Ontario Line will be negated if they conflict with Flood Protection on the Lower Don River.

The idea mooted in the recent budget announcement of bridging over, rather than tunneling under, the Don River at Eastern Avenue is fraught with increased risk and technical problems. Critical Flood Protection infrastructure is directly in the way of the proposed Ontario line bridge.

A completed Flood Protection Landform (FPL) is currently in place on the west, protecting the West Don Lands and a wide swath of the Downtown past Union Station. On the east side of the Don River another FPL is currently in advanced stages of environmental assessment. The eastern FPL will protect the regeneration and employment lands that are currently being opened, particularly the East Harbour or Unilever development. In addition, the area of Broadview and Eastern is a complex network of above- and below-ground sewer, water, electrical and gas infrastructure with a challenging hydrogeomorphic profile. All these factors went into selecting both the Flood Mitigation solutions for the Lower Don and the tunneling route of the Relief Line.

There must be no delay or interruption in the completion of the Ontario Line, Central Section, or the Flood Protection solutions in the Lower Don caused by ill-informed reconsideration of well-developed solutions to complex infrastructure improvements.

### RECOMMENDATION:

To address the concerns raised here, I suggest that City Council direct the City of Toronto/TTC Expert Advisory Panel and the interagency working group with responsibility for the “Ontario Line” to consider the effects of any proposed changes to the Central Section, specifically the

crossing of the Don River, on Flood Protection west and east of the Don River such that the proposed crossing does not increase the flood risk to life and property in the West Don Lands and downtown core or in the proposed East Harbour (Unilever) development and adjacent employment and regeneration lands.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Wilson  
Co-Chair

Two solid black rectangular redaction boxes. The first box is a single line, and the second box is a longer line below it, both obscuring text.