



January 26, 2021

Office of the Mayor
Mayor_tory@toronto.ca

RE: EX20.2 Advancing the SmartTrack Stations Program

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee,

This is a joint letter from Save Jimmie Simpson! and Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee.

Save Jimmie Simpson! is a grass-roots community group, fighting to have the Ontario Line buried in order to save our community's parks, health & well-being. We are community members who support public transit that is environmentally responsible and planned with genuine input from the neighbourhoods in which it is built.

Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC) works to minimize the impact of Metrolinx's projects on the quality of life for local residents and communities. It is made up of community members who live in proximity to the LSE rail corridor along with our elected officials.

SmartTrack plans to use the rail corridor through Riverside and Leslieville. While we welcome more transit for the city, we have concerns about health and safety impacts of the "joint corridor." We are writing to ask you to commission a Health Impact Assessment to understand what we believe will be negative health effects for the communities that surround the line.

Our concerns about this section of the rail corridor include the environmental and public health risks it poses, the loss of green spaces and parks that are so important to local residents, and the rail safety issues created by the inadequate set-backs from residences (including Fontbonne Place and McCleary Towers) and mixed rail traffic along a narrow corridor.

While Metrolinx is conducting some type of an Environmental Assessment for the Ontario Line project, none of their past or future assessments address the adverse health effects on the local communities that surround the "joint corridor." Metrolinx seems unwilling to take on any appraisal that might slow down project delivery, even when the health of the community through which the Ontario Line is planned to run is at stake.

Furthermore, this corridor will be used to accommodate tripling of GO train service. By our estimation, the number of GO and Ontario Line trains passing through the "joint corridor" will increase from 170 to





882 trains a day.¹ Yet, there is no impact assessment planned by any government– city, provincial or federal – that examines the cumulative effects of 6 lanes of rail traffic (4 GO tracks and 2 OL tracks) and associated health and environmental impacts.

The City of Toronto has conducted Health Impact Assessments for previous infrastructure projects, namely Gardiner Expressway Reconfiguration, Billy Bishop Airport Expansion and High Occupancy Toll Lanes. Two of these assessments were commissioned by Toronto Public Health and conducted by third party consultants.

We believe a rapid Health Impact Assessment can be done to assess the impact of transit plans without sacrificing health officials' ability to respond to the ongoing pandemic. We urge you to conduct one as immediately as possible.

Maggi Redmonds

Save Jimmie Simpson

maggi.redmonds@primus.ca

Eon Song

Save Jimmie Simpson

eon.ho.song@gmail.com

Shelley Kline

Lakeshore East
Community Advisory Committee

las.cac.20@gmail.com

CC:

City Clerk exc@toronto.ca

Julie Dabrusin, MP for Toronto-Danforth Julie.Dabrusin@parl.gc.ca

Peter Tabuns, MPP for Toronto-Danforth tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca

Paula Fletcher, Councillor councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca

¹ Based on future GO service estimate and Ontario Line service frequency per Preliminary Design Business Case.

