

West Don Lands Committee

Citizens for the Old Town
Corktown Residents & Business Association
Distillery Historic District
Dixon Hall
Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

December 6, 2021
City of Toronto Executive Committee

By email: exc@toronto.ca

Friends of Corktown Common
Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association
Little Trinity Anglican Church
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: Ex28.14 Ontario Line Downtown Stations - Temporary Road Closures

We are writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee to request immediate community integration into the planning of road closures and construction management in connection with the Ontario Line construction.

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

The east downtown communities are already experiencing intensive heavy construction activity which is slated to increase with more than 15,000 residential units in the development pipeline. The staff report description of

additional truck movements required for the Ontario Line construction raises alarming concerns for both safety and quality of life in the downtown core.

During the years of tunnelling and station construction it is estimated that the Osgoode, Queen, Moss Park and Corktown stations could add 135 daily heavy truck movements in and out along Jarvis, Queen, Richmond, Adelaide and Parliament Streets. The traffic from the tunneling operation at the Corktown Station alone is predicted to add up to 75 trucks a day, moving excavation materials through residential and tourist areas.

The risk to pedestrians and cyclists cannot be underestimated. In the past year two community members were killed by cement trucks while crossing at marked intersections in our neighbourhood. Strict measures governing haul routes, truck speed limits and safe turning practices must be identified, imposed and enforced.

The dimension of hours of operation similarly needs to be addressed in any traffic construction management strategy. The experience of St. Lawrence Neighbourhood residents during the Gardiner rehabilitation demonstrates the harm to health and wellbeing of overnight noise and disruption. While the staff report mentions welcome mitigation measures such as idling restriction, it does not speak to permitted work hours. It would not be appropriate if the incentives to shorten the period of road closures led to work hours that made life a misery for the thousands who call the downtown home.

To date, the residential community around the east downtown Ontario Line Stations has not been consulted in the development of road closures and haul protocols. We are specifically asking that community organizations such as Walk Toronto, West Don Lands Committee, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association and Corktown Resident & Business Association be consulted by city staff going forward and have representation on the Construction Hub(s) established for this work.

Finally, we are asking that the Mayor and Council establish and lead a process to ensure that innovative Vision Zero best practice standards are identified and applied to the Ontario Line construction. We are looking to you to ensure that the downtown residents and business can survive the nine years of construction and truly celebrate the benefits of this important transit initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Cynthia Wilkey
Co-Chair



John Wilson
Co-Chair



cc. Councillor Joe Cressy
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam