

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM36.48	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Design Excellence in Riverside and Leslieville - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to:

a. request Metrolinx to ensure the retaining walls and noise barriers in the Lake Shore East Joint Corridor are of highest level of design excellence, public realm and ensure the budget contains sufficient funds to accomplish the required design excellence including the highest possible standard of noise mitigation;

b. immediately request the Metrolinx to seek the opinion of City staff, prior to October 24, 2021, with expertise in Urban Design and Public Realm on the specifications and design of the Lake Shore East Joint Corridor retaining and noise walls to ensure outstanding and public realm contribution; and to ensure the specifications on the noise wall are sufficient; and

c. request Metrolinx to share all the public comments and public consultation information with the City staff experts engaged on this project.

2. City Council request the City Manager to provide an update report on Recommendation 1 above to the Executive Committee meeting on December 7, 2021.

Summary

As part of its GO Expansion program and proposed Ontario Line, Metrolinx plans to build retaining walls topped with noise barriers. Metrolinx has not yet agreed to pursue an underground option for the 2 kms through the Riverside and Leslieville neighbourhoods so the specifications – including materials, style and effectiveness are more important than ever. These wall will be seen daily from the parks, public spaces, roads homes and businesses and will impact the City's Public realm in a most significant manner.

To date Metrolinx has not engaged the City on the specifications and design for this proposed wall yet the specifications are being prepared for the upcoming Early Works tender document.

It is critical that City's urban design standards are incorporated into the design of these retaining and noise walls. Two City Staff units – Urban Design and Public Realm – work at every level to create beautiful, vibrant, safe and inclusive places on both public and private projects. Urban Design is a part of City Planning and Public Realm is a part of Transportation Services. These two units' expertise and resources are needed to make this project a success.

Both of these units have extensive experience and a strong capacity for incorporating public feedback into projects designs in order to improve them; and to accomplish the required design excellence including the highest possible standard of noise mitigation.

However, due to the nature of this project their involvement has not been triggered in the way it would normally be, for example, by a private development application.

REASON FOR URGENCY: These walls are part of the Joint Corridor Early Works and commenting on the EA report for that is slated to end on October 24, 2021

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM36.48