

From: [A Voice for Transit](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Comments for 2021.MM32.27 on May 5, 2021 City Council
Date: May 6, 2021 9:08:48 AM

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

Members of A Voice for Transit are concerned with the poor community consultation performed by Metrolinx with the Thorncliffe Park community concerning the site selection of the Ontario Line's maintenance and storage facility. We support Councillor Robinson's motion requesting transparent public consultation and consideration of alternatives.

Metrolinx's community meeting was given with little notice to the Thorncliffe Park community and the amount of space allotted for commentary was extremely limited. We understand that the province's Bill 171 - An Act to Enact the Building Transit Faster Act provides limited – at best – opportunities for public consultation. As Toronto City Council debates this motion, we ask that members consider asking the province to follow the spirit of the Planning Act regarding public consultations in regards to these transit projects. Under the Planning Act, S.17, ss.19 and S.34, ss.14.1, the public must be given 20 days notice before a public meeting.

The risk of not conducting meaningful consultation with the community has risks for the city's fabric and identity. The expropriation of a shopping plaza with ethnic retailers displaces these businesses as well as risks displacing local residents over time. Such changes not only can be detrimental to Thorncliffe Park residents, but risk eroding the City of Toronto's identity that is so strongly tied to diversity.

Despite efforts to designate it as a cultural heritage area, we have already seen how Little Jamaica's businesses and residents have been negatively impacted by poor planning related to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. Let's not have the same fate for another community in the City of Toronto as a result of a transit project. We ask that Council approve this motion and use its powers to positively influence the process.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Jean-François Obregón

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