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Toronto City Councillor
Beaches—East York | Ward 19

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January 26, 2022

Mayor Tory and Members, Executive Committee
2nd floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Requesting Metrolinx to establish a clear plan for environmental stewardship in Small's Creek and Williamson Ravines

To the Chair, Mayor Tory and Members of Executive Committee:

For several years Metrolinx and our Provincial partners have been working to add a fourth track to the Lakeshore East GO line to enable all day two-way transit service. In general, communities around the rail corridor in Beaches-East York have been supportive of the rail changes, recognizing the many benefits improved transit access brings to Toronto and the GTHA.

Members of the local community shown engaged, informed advocacy for the best outcomes for this special pocket in the East End, forming The Friends of Small's Creek. Following many meetings, discussions, and site visits with Metrolinx and other agencies and divisions involved, the group has been using their technical expertise and local wisdom to ensure this much-needed expansion of public transit is completed in a way that meets the highest possible standards of environmental sustainability, ecological planning, and effective stewardship that will support this critical ecosystem in the years ahead.

With work slated to escalate on the site, the community and I are requesting your support in asking Metrolinx to explore additional proposals that would reduce the works impact on the environment, develop a clear and detailed restoration plan, and to continue engaging with the community and local stakeholders to achieve the environmental and social objectives that are crucial to this work moving forward to the best possible outcomes.

Recommendations:

1. City Council requests the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office Executive, to request Metrolinx to investigate and provide alternative proposals to the City that reduce the impact to the ravine ecosystem due to Small's Creek project, including the approach for how the pedestrian connection from

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Merrill Bridge Road Park to Williamson Park Ravine will be included in the scope of the project, as referenced in the report.

2. City Council requests the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office to request Metrolinx, in consultation with relevant City Divisions and agencies including the TRCA, to provide a publicly available ecological restoration and stewardship plan for the entirety of the Small's Creek ravine area, which:
 - a. includes a walking path that maintains connection across the east and west sides of the ravine, in keeping with the 'connecting' goal of the Council-endorsed Toronto Ravine Strategy;
 - b. explores the addition of a tiered retaining wall in the Small's Creek ravine to provide both better visual as well as improved environmental outcomes;
 - c. provides an outline for improved noise mitigation measures that address increased vibration, sound frequency, and decibel noise levels and confirmation of measures that will be implemented prior to and as part of future expansion or RER work in the area;
 - d. outlines the roles and responsibilities for all agencies and divisions involved in the scope of work;
 - e. includes consultation with community and stakeholders, including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and receives TRCA approval in advance of requesting further project approvals or beginning any significant early work construction that impacts mature trees and the wooded ravine slope.

Thank you for your support on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Brad Bradford

Toronto City Councillor

Beaches-East York | Ward 19

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