



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

GWNA SUBMISSION ON EX31.9 – REVIEW OF VULNERABLE ROAD USER SAFETY, TRANSIT PRIORITY AND COMMUNICATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

March 30, 2022

TO Mayor John Tory and Members of the Executive Committee, Toronto City Council:

The Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association, which represents the residents in and around the Distillery Historic Site, wishes to sincerely thank City Staff for their tireless work on the impact of the Ontario Line against insuperable odds. We recognise the disruption which the Ontario Line will impose on our Downtown East communities for years to come, but we also recognise the work which has been done by City Staff to minimise it for all our residents.

The GWNA would like to underline elements in the Background report for this Agenda item to ensure that City Staff and City Council note them for the future.

- 1. We enthusiastically support the establishment of a Construction Hub for the Ontario Line construction area resourced by Metrolinx.**
 - a. The West Don Lands requires massive co-ordination between all the developers in the area between Berkeley St. and the Don River, and from King St. south to the Waterfront.
 - b. There are currently 9 major commercial developments in process circling the Distillery District, as well as major work on Lakeshore Boulevard, Cherry St., and development sites south of Lakeshore into the Portlands.
 - c. This does not include the TWO Metrolinx construction sites in this geographic area – the Corktown/First Parliament TOC and the Mill St. School Site.
 - d. It is essential that community liaison and consultation are included at the beginning of the planning and construction process. Definitions such as ‘reasonable levels of disruption’ must be developed with the community based on our experience, not in isolation. We have extended experience with past Metrolinx construction and requirements for contractors must be in place before contracts are signed.
 - e. We ask that City staff include community members of the GWNA, CRBA and WDLC as advisors to the Construction Hub and all Construction Liaison Committees established in our geographic area as soon as possible.
- 2. We request that City Staff require and monitor meaningful community liaison with Metrolinx in all communities affected by their construction and operation activities.**

- a. To date, Metrolinx' consultation with local communities has been superficial at best. We need a point of contact and inclusion at every stage of the development. We need to be included immediately as decisions begin.
- b. For example, the GWNA has been asking for information from Metrolinx regarding the disposition of the Mill St. School Site for over a year and has yet to meet with anyone from Metrolinx for a substantive discussion. To be treated in this way as the most disruptive project in our community begins, would be unconscionable.
- c. Consultations with respect to other issues have also been limited and prescriptive. Promises of community consultation are easy to make but harder to keep.

The West Don Lands is currently undergoing a development boom that is one of the most intensified in the City of Toronto. Even without the TOC and Metrolinx construction, our residents are foreseeing years of disruption which is, and will, have a major impact on our quality of life.

Traffic disruption is only part of the picture but an important one. The tragic loss of our active community member, Tricia Waldron, who was killed by a turning cement truck in the Distillery District just over a year ago is still fresh in the minds of our residents. Speed limits and road closures to construction vehicles are only a few of the tools which must be deployed for our safety.

Our neighbourhood has already suffered through 24-hour work along the Metrolinx lines to the south of the Distillery. We cannot suffer through any such level of overnight work again. Heightened noise, constant vibration, declining air quality and glaring construction lights, all of which will threaten the health of our residents, will be problems going forward; they must be limited and monitored with transparent reporting to the residents.

We must be given clear and consistent opportunities to ensure that the voices of our residents are heard and listened to as part of rigorous monitoring of the Ontario Line and Transit Oriented Communities' construction. We will rely on equally rigorous monitoring by City Staff as well as by the Construction Hub and any relevant Construction Liaison Committees. Please do not fail us.

Thank you for your support and attention.



Diana Belshaw

President, Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association