



27 May 2022

Dear Committee Members,  
Planning and Housing Committee,  
City of Toronto

RE: Agenda Item PH34.4

**City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendments to Implement Ontario Line - Final Report**

On behalf of the Federation of South Toronto Residents Association (FoSTRA), I am writing to state our objection to a clause of the Draft Amendment to former City of Toronto By-law 438-86 – specifically, Section 1.490. a) v. “A portion of 130 Queen Street West.”

FoSTRA is a federation that currently represents 25 residents associations in the five downtown Wards – Wards 4, 9, 10, 11 and 13 – i.e., thousands of Toronto’s citizens. We have become concerned about the potential destruction of one of the city’s most important historical sites and the loss of rare parkland in the centre of the city, along with many mature trees.

Despite repeated requests from the community for information, Metrolinx’s proposed plans for Osgoode Station were revealed only at the beginning of April 2022. Immediately thereafter, serious objections were raised.

Following significant pressure from the Grange Community Association (GCA), Campbell House and FoSTRA, Metrolinx agreed to a meeting of stakeholders – cultural, environmental and community organizations.

The ensuing roundtable on 14 April was well attended. Many Metrolinx and City staff, as well as representatives from the Canadian Opera Company, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the Law Society of Ontario, Office of the Chief Justices and other organizations were present. Even so, this was still not a public event. To my knowledge, today’s PHC meeting (May 31) is the first and only official public consultation related to Osgoode Station.

On 14 April, the GCA and Campbell House presented an alternative proposal for Osgoode Station, which you have been, or will be, shown today (May 31). All the attending organizations praised the community alternative and were critical of Metrolinx’s existing plans. Metrolinx agreed to have its engineers study our alternative and get back to us about its viability within a few weeks. To date, over a month and a half later, we have received nothing, save for assurances that a response is coming soon.

Regarding the section of the draft bylaw amendment that refers to 130 Queen Street, FoSTRA is asking for the proposed amendment to:

1. be rejected, because of the inevitable damage to this valued historical property and its green space, which would include the removal of 10 or more mature trees; or, at the very least,
2. be deferred until Metrolinx reports back on the community proposal.

If our community proposal is found not to be viable, other, less damaging proposals should be considered, and adequate time should be allotted for such potential alternatives to come forward. This



first public consultation could inspire a better approach that respects the integrity of a historic downtown public realm, one that Torontonians and visitors greatly value.

A question that remains to be answered: Why is the City driving this draft bylaw amendment? Who benefits? Certainly, not the City or its citizens!

The proposed station entrance at the NE corner of Queen and University, as shown in the illustration provided by Metrolinx, is unrealistic. It is situated right at the NE corner, immediately adjoining the existing sidewalk. At all times, but especially during rush hours, those entering and exiting the Ontario Line will be fighting for space with pedestrians who are waiting for the changing traffic lights at this very busy intersection, as well as cueing for streetcars heading west on Queen, and commuters entering and exiting the existing Osgoode Station on the University line.

If the PHC recommends the proposed amendment as it pertains to 130 Queen Street, the entrance will have to be moved, either deeper into the property, which will more seriously compromise the Osgoode Hall property and its treasured gardens, or further north, which may require another amendment. Like an iceberg, most of the infrastructure for the station entrance will be underground, making it impossible for large trees to be replanted after construction.

However, if moved far enough north, beyond the heritage iron fencing and into the 'vacant' grass field area, the threat to the Osgoode Hall property would be minimized. Many other alternatives –including a SE corner location for the main entrance of Osgoode Station – have not been fully explored. All the more reason for the PHC to either reject this bylaw amendment outright or defer it until such time as a less destructive solution can be found.

We are hoping that you will agree with us and save the Osgoode Hall property for Torontonians now and for future generations.

Don Young,  
Ward 11 Director, Interim Director Ward 13, and  
Co-chair, Advocacy and Activism Committee