

## HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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To Chair and Councillors on TEYCC subcommittee on Metrolinx  
Re: item TM 1.2.

March 19, 2023.

Dear Councillors:

Harbord Village Residents' Association welcomes the prospect this committee may be able to insert the wishes of the City and the concerns of its residents into planning for the Ontario Line. We share the sense of emergency arising from what has already been done by Metrolinx and the manner in which it has been done, but there is a bigger picture we cannot afford to lose sight of.

We represent members in the section of the Downtown on the western flank of the St. George campus, between Bloor and College and Spadina and Bathurst. We participated over many years in the TOCore process and took faithful part in the deliberations on greenspace, particularly University Park. This is the single most inspiring addition to Toronto greenspace in a tower city that is pressed for public realm space, pedestrian comfort and sustainable infrastructure. It stands to establish an 8.9 acre (3.6 hectare) green thread from Queen to Hoskins. University Park was given a green light at Council in July 2022<sup>1</sup>. It was called "a historic project" by then Mayor Tory and staff was directed to begin the analysis of below-grade infrastructure starting south from College Street and report back to Executive Committee in 2023. While such progress is welcome, it does not address the potential challenge posed by the surface design at Osgoode.

Remember the Metrolinx station and University Park share exactly the same space at University and Queen.

Under normal circumstances, it would be reasonable for a project developer and the City to work together toward designing that shared public space. We are not optimistic that this will happen without the intervention of this subcommittee. Your subcommittee work must ensure before Metrolinx announces its detailed designs, the City itself has mature plans for the Osgoode intersection of University Park that are founded on community consultation and support from residents. This urgent work may provide the key to reversing the negative impacts of Metrolinx's current plan for Osgoode Station.

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When in conflict, figure out the end game and get there first.



Publicwork Realization: TOCore Great Streets

With thanks  
Sue Dexter  
Board Member HVRA

- 1 Executive Committee report: July, 2023. See p. 14-17  
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-228092.pdf>