

# West Don Lands Committee

Citizens for the Old Town

Corktown Residents & Business Association

Distillery Historic District

Dixon Hall

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

Friends of Corktown Common

Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

March 21, 2023

By email: teycc@toronto.ca

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for striking this special subcommittee for querying and examining Metrolinx's construction of the Ontario Line within the central part of the City of Toronto. This major transit infrastructure project has the potential to dominate life in the city's core, near-east, and near-west communities for the next decade, while it fundamentally changes transportation in the city permanently.

The West Don Lands Committee has advocated and supported transit expansion and improvement throughout of twenty-five year existence as part of our commitment to positive, sustainable, inclusive development in the West Don Lands and surroundings. We support the city's governing role executing the democratic will of the people of Toronto for a more mobile, active, vibrant city with opportunities for all.

As you take on the task of holding Metrolinx to account and directing staff in their negotiations and collaboration with Metrolinx, we ask that you consider these concerns:

## Ontario Line - Corktown Station and Don Yard

- \* The City should press Metrolinx to honour their commitments to a Construction Communications Management regime that operates effectively, comprising two levels: 1) a Stakeholder Committee with a communications focus with all relevant community and institutional actors; and 2) a series of small, focused Construction Liaison Committees with an ear to the ground to react quickly on a local basis.
- \* Metrolinx and Toronto need to ensure pedestrian, cyclist safety with many heavy truck movements.
- \* In conjunction with the Construction Liaison Committee work Metrolinx needs to provide clear info re work hours and noise mitigation - including location of noise monitoring equipment.
- \* The City needs to press for more clear commitment on the Community Employment Benefits program.

## Transit Oriented Communities

While Metrolinx is at pains to distance itself from the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) program that will proceed apace with transit construction is several locations, including the Corktown location, we urge the this Sub-Committee and the City to constantly watch for related provincial initiatives tied to Ontario Line construction.

- \* The City should push for maximum levels of affordable **rental** housing that is **permanently** affordable (city ownership, leased to non-profit or co-op?).
- All three levels of government should be contributing to the cost of the affordable rental housing.
- The province through Infrastructure Ontario should commit to a robust Community employment/ economic benefits regime for all TOCs working with Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN).
- The TOC programs must provide community amenities needed to create a complete community - parks, daycare, school contributions, etc.

### First Parliament Site

The Ontario Line project has placed itself at the centre of the ambitious plans for Upper Canada's First Parliament Site at Front St. and Berkeley. It is imperative that this important heritage opportunity is realized while the Ontario Line and TOC is being developed around it.

- The City should ensure that First Parliament Master Plan principles are advanced through:
  - Inclusion of Master Plan objectives in Infrastructure Ontario market offer;
  - City Economic Development planning for the First Parliament site, including negotiations to secure ground floor retail space for synergistic economic activity;
  - City allocation of expropriation proceeds for developing a cultural commemorative program for the FPS.

West Don Lands Committee and our coalition members will be working with City Council and with other communities in the BOLD coalition to watch over Metrolinx and achieve a positive transit outcome that contributes to a great, liveable City.

Yours truly,



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