



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY EMAIL

TO: Toronto-East York Community Council

Sub-Committee on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction

Councillors Fletcher, Malik and Moise:

On behalf of the Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association, I would like to thank you for the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction. Our association has worked over the last three years to disentangle the opaque communications from Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario regarding their plans for sites along the Ontario Line. Prior to that, residents worked for over twenty years with City Staff to develop the First Parliament Site Master Plan. The overnight decision by the Province to drive the Ontario Line through our neighbourhood and to expropriate the First Parliament Site, as well as the Mill St. School Site, has shown complete disrespect for our City, its history and its residents.

We look forward to your championship of our City and our communities. There are a number of issues illuminated by the Report you are considering from the Transit Expansion Office which concern us:

1. Metrolinx has not consulted appropriately with the communities affected. The most recent 'Corktown CLC' meeting lasted for an hour, of which 20 minutes were spent introducing attendees, over 20 minutes were spent on a slide presentation which reiterated previously shared information which the community had already noted was incorrect, and barely 15 minutes for questions.
2. Most consultations have been with groups that are far too large for genuine conversation. We suggest a mixture of stake-holder meetings which can be attended by any resident, and working groups which are smaller and can delve deeper into the issues which need to be resolved.
3. The City has not been rigorous in ensuring that haulage routes (among other traffic impacts) are correct and will not impact residents' lives more than necessary. The Distillery lies between two construction sites (the First Parliament/Corktown site and the Mill St. School site (Don Yards)) so will be severely impacted by the addition of Ontario Line trucks to the already massive condo construction in and around our community.

4. We need a comprehensive construction plan, shared with residents, which can be updated regularly and which maps development impacts into the next seven years at least.
5. Metrolinx has promised to monitor environmental impacts – vibration and noise – but has significantly omitted to mention air quality at public meetings. Our community is not only impacted by Metrolinx construction but also by the proximity of the Gardiner Expressway. We need a commitment from the City to ensure such monitoring is not only done, but the results posted regularly for public information.
6. The removal of green space due to the Ontario Line development must be rectified by Metrolinx, not simply as a quid pro quo on the lands they have taken over but also on other Provincially owned lands in our communities. The First Parliament Site has lost a significant amount of park space, for instance, which could be remedied by the release of Provincial land on Mill St. which was intended for a park in the West Don Lands Precinct Plan. The City needs to hold the Province to these promises.
7. The Ontario Line development is inextricably linked to the development of the Transit Oriented Communities above it. This meeting may not be the time to discuss the further issues of affordable housing, community benefits and design excellence which will be on the table as the Line reaches completion but they must be kept in mind. The commitments of the last City Council to the preservation of the First Parliament Site as a heritage destination must also not be forgotten.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely difficult situation. We look forward to working with you to ensure the health and safety of our residents, as well as to building the integrity and beauty of our City.



Diana Belshaw
President, Gooderham & Worts neighbourhood Association