

March 21, 2023

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction (2022-2026)

RE: Report from the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division on Subcommittee on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction – First Report

AGENDA ITEM: 2023.TM1.2

RECOMMENDATION: The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association recommends:

1. that the Subcommittee receive the subject report for information and direct the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division to report back to the Subcommittee, *at a minimum*, on a semi-annual basis;
2. that the Subcommittee, through TEYCC, equip staff with as strong a negotiating position as possible on all relevant issues, along with the tools and authority to push hard for City and Community priorities throughout the Ontario Line construction phase;
3. that the Subcommittee require staff to engage with the communities affected by the Ontario Line construction to ensure that community expertise and community priorities are considered throughout the process;
4. that the Subcommittee, at an appropriate time, expand its purview to include the residential and commercial developments that surround the Ontario Line stations, in particular the planned Transit Oriented Communities.
5. that the Subcommittee offer its full support for the ongoing cooperation between the community and the Transit Expansion Office in reimagining the First Parliament site, in a manner which respects the principles of the First Parliament Master Plan while acknowledging the reality of the Transit Oriented Community to be build there.

Dear Councillor's Fletcher, Malik and Moise,

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), incorporated in 1983, represents over 35,000 residents living in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood of Toronto. The neighbourhood – bounded by Yonge St., Queen St. E., Parliament St. and the rail corridor to the south – is a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial community adjoining the Central Business District. It contains the oldest neighbourhood in the (now) City of Toronto, the *original ten blocks* of the Town of York (dating from 1793).

The St. Lawrence neighbourhood will be significantly affected by the construction of the Ontario Line and the Transit Oriented Community to follow. The neighbourhood includes the site of the (so-called) *Corktown* Station at the First Parliament site and the proposed TOC there, and is adjacent to the sites of both the Moss Park and Queen St. stations at its northern border.

The neighbourhood has been intimately involved in the many years of consultation and planning for the future of the First Parliament site (the block bounded by Berkeley St., Front St.,

Parliament St. and Parliament Square Park to the south) which led to the finalization of the First Parliament Master Plan and its adoption by City Council in 2021.

When all of that work was negated by the Province's appropriation of the First Parliament site to facilitate the construction of the Ontario Line beneath it, and the creation of a 1 million square foot, 750 residential unit Transit Oriented Community on the site, the community engaged with both Infrastructure Ontario and Metrolinx to insist that neighbourhood voices be heard and considered in both the planning process and the construction phases to follow.

SLNA advocated strongly that both the station – which will be constructed on the block north of the First Parliament site (bounded by Berkeley St., King St., Parliament St. and Front St.) – and the First Parliament site itself be developed in a way that respected the principles of the First Parliament Master Plan and included many of important features of that plan (indigenous participation, the pre- and post-colonial heritage of the site itself – including the physical sites of the first and second parliament buildings of Upper Canada, the then-shoreline, the historic railway hub and substantive additions to the public realm).

Unfortunately, both Metrolinx (for the line construction piece) and Infrastructure Ontario (for the development piece) have proven to be reluctant participants, to date, in consultative processes which pertain to the Ontario Line and its related TOC developments.

The *Subcommittee on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction (2022-2026)* has an opportunity to ensure to the maximum extent possible that Community voices are engaged and heard. The SLNA encourages this sub-committee to insist that City staff make the best possible use of both the expertise that exists within the various communities affected by the Ontario line construction and the views of the residents of those communities.

Members of the Community, many of whom have submitted input to this initial meeting of the subcommittee, have continued to engage with City staff throughout the intervening months and for SLNA's part will continue to do so. The Association believes that staff need a strong negotiating mandate from Council, through this Subcommittee, in order to achieve the most positive possible outcomes – short and longer term – for the affected neighbourhoods and the City as a whole.

Finally, SLNA acknowledges that the disruption related to the construction of the Ontario Line will extend well beyond the term of this Council. Where possible and where relevant, the Association respectfully requests that this subcommittee expand its scope to include activity related to the surrounding residential and commercial developments that may occur in parallel with Metrolinx's activities during the subcommittee's tenure.

In particular, the Association requests the subcommittee's full support for the community's ongoing discussions with the Transit Expansion Office on the future of the First Parliament site. These discussions have been collaborative and constructive, and while there is a long way to go, and some hurdles to overcome – including financial challenges – your support is needed in helping to achieve the optimum result – one which respects the principles of the first Parliament Master Plan while recognizing the reality of the Transit Oriented Community to be built there.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association fully supports the objectives of this subcommittee and is prepared to work closely with staff and subcommittee members to create outcomes which



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respect the neighbourhoods affected and of which local residents and indeed the entire City can be proud.

Thank you for your consideration of this input.

Sincerely,



p.p.

Board of Directors
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Members of the Subcommittee:

Councillor Fletcher
Councillor Malik
Councillor Moise

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