



June 17, 2024

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Cathrine Regan

**RE: EX15.2 - Priorities in Transit Expansion and Transit-Oriented Communities Projects**

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow, Chair, and Members of Executive Committee,

We are strongly in support of this report and its recommendations. We do, however, push for stronger public consultation. See our two structural recommendations below.

We do recognise that in regard to Ontario Line projects by Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario, the City is in a secondary situation, having to advise, suggest, request, and mostly, react to Provincial moves. Compared with the Eglinton Crosstown Project of a decade ago, where there was one Provincial agency involved (Metrolinx) with a signed Community Benefits Agreement, and the City undertook Focus Area studies to understand and plan for the land use impacts, the situation has deteriorated. Now with the addition of Infrastructure Ontario (IO), we have two Provincial agencies involved, which are not well coordinated. Nevertheless the City deserves credit for reacting appropriately, and putting forward the case for good planning, developing a Priorities list, and establishing a Transit and TOC Leaders Roundtable, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated City approach.

Unsurprisingly, there is one area that we continue to raise - the need for more public engagement. We recommend:

- (1) City endorsement of a more organised public engagement process for the fragmentary process established by Metrolinx (Open Houses – lacking IO) and Infrastructure Ontario (Advisory Committee – lacking Metrolinx!).
- (2) City commitment to City Planning-lead comprehensive “Focus Area” studies for the communities chosen by IO as “Transit Oriented Communities”.

NOTE: The Decision History (Attachment 1) report is missing the following City Council decision:

**MM16.31 Request for Updates on Northern Segment of the Ontario Line -  
by Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside  
(Ward 6, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18)**

City Council on March 20 and 21, 2024, adopted the following:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the Executive Director, Transit Expansion, to report to North York Community Council with updates on the status and progress of the Province's Transit-Oriented Communities proposals as well as design and construction of the northern segment of the Ontario Line within the boundaries of North York.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM16.31

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-244051.pdf>

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Dag Sharma, Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services  
Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services  
Derrick Toigo, Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division  
Kerri A. Voumvakis, Interim Chief Planner and Executive Director, City  
Planning Division

**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.