



June 18th 2024

Toronto City Hall
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Dear Mayor Olivia Chow,

Re: Deputation to Toronto City Council and its Executive Committee on EX15.2 - Priorities in Transit Expansion and Transit-Oriented Communities Projects - B.O.L.D

To the Members of Toronto City Council and the Executive Committee,

We, Walled Khogali Ali and Liz Driver, co-chairs of the Build Ontario Line Differently (BOLD) Community Coalition, respectfully submit this deputation to address several pressing issues concerning community engagement in the Ontario Line construction within the City of Toronto.

BOLD and its members urge the inclusion of community groups, neighborhood associations, and community coalitions like BOLD in the Recommended Approaches to Advance City Priorities. Specifically, the Community Benefits Working Groups must incorporate the voices of the community, not just city staff. We are disappointed that no community benefits have been secured for the Ontario Line from provincial agencies, either through Metrolinx or Infrastructure Ontario. Unfortunately, Metrolinx still lacks a working process to effectively collaborate with community stakeholders.

On May 27th, BOLD requested a meeting with Metrolinx to discuss the status of the terms of reference for the Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) and how we can move forward to finalize and publicize these terms. This meeting was also meant to highlight the great work accomplished between Metrolinx and the BOLD Community Coalition. However, we have received no response from Metrolinx over several months, which does not inspire confidence that Metrolinx is working with community stakeholders to meet the community benefits expectations set by both the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Additionally, the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) and BOLD have been advocating for a project-level Community Benefits Working Group, which is conspicuously absent in the recommendations to City Council. It is important to note that there have been no formal meetings between Metrolinx and the BOLD Community Coalition since January 15th, 2024. As we approach a pivotal phase in finalizing the CLC Terms of

Reference and transitioning to the implementation stage, Metrolinx has been notably absent. We hope to celebrate the finalization of these terms publicly through an informational session for all CLCs across the Ontario Line, where we can introduce the finalized terms of reference and celebrate this accomplishment with the wider community.

We would like to remind members of the council of our deputation on January 24th, where we made similar requests. At that time, we emphasized the importance of community engagement in the Ontario Line construction and highlighted our collaboration with Metrolinx in shaping the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CLCs. Since the summer of 2023, BOLD and Metrolinx have engaged in monthly meetings, which were instrumental in nearly finalizing the draft ToR on January 15, 2024. Despite delays introduced by staff changes at Metrolinx, we remain committed to this collaborative effort.

Our engagement with Metrolinx builds upon the foundational work of the Moss Park Coalition and Lake Shore East Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC). The insights and revisions provided by these groups, combined with BOLD's contributions, have greatly influenced our constructive dialogue with Metrolinx. We are grateful for the consistent support and involvement of Mark Clancy in these discussions, despite his temporary leave introducing delays.

The Toronto Community Benefits Network has been a pivotal ally, providing essential advocacy and insights, particularly regarding public realm improvements and community benefits.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all BOLD members and stakeholders, including the Corktown Residents and Business Association, Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC), Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association, Moss Park Coalition, Save Jimmie Simpson (SJS), Federation of South Toronto Residents Association (FOSTRA), Regent Park Neighbourhood Association, and the Thorncliffe and Flemingdon neighborhoods, for their unwavering commitment and valuable input.

We also want to highlight BOLD's engagement with Infrastructure Ontario, specifically our last meeting with the provincial agency on April 16th, 2024. During this meeting, we discussed the following agenda items:

- Discussion on the TOC overview with the IO project team.
- BOLD Priorities shared with Infrastructure Ontario, including:
 - a) IO's commitment to affordable housing at the TOC sites.
 - b) IO's commitment to community benefits at the TOC sites, including community facilities.
 - c) The timeline for the Ontario Line TOCs, with milestones related to community engagement for residents.

We note a concerning communication gap between Metrolinx and the City's Transit Expansion team, highlighting the need for more transparent and efficient information sharing, especially regarding the progress in the ToR process.

Regarding community benefits, the report lacks detailed information on public realm improvements, a crucial component of Metrolinx's Pillar 3. We urge a focus on meaningful outcomes, such as the enhancement of the Queen & University intersection.

We also seek clarity on the Ontario Line's impact on parkland, compliance with municipal by-laws, and plans for park restoration. Detailed information and concrete steps from Metrolinx and the City are essential in this regard.

In conclusion, we call for an enhanced focus on communication and collaboration between Metrolinx, the City, and community stakeholders. We request a meeting to further discuss these matters and look forward to constructive dialogues for the betterment of our community and the city at large.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to a positive and productive collaboration to address community needs across the Ontario Line.

BOLD Coalition members: Campbell House Museum, Don't Mess with the Don, Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations, Friends of Smalls Creek, Garment District Neighbourhood Association, Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association, Grange Community Association, Harbord Village Residents Association, Liberty Village Residents Association, Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee, Moss Park Coalition, Regent Park Neighbourhood Association, Parkdale Residents Association, Save Jimmie Simpson Group and the Thorncliffe and Flemingdon neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Walied Khogali Ali and Liz Driver

Co-Chair(s)

BOLD Community Coalition

BOLD
COALITION
BUILD ONTARIO LINE
DIFFERENTLY