



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

**City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Councillor Chris Moise  
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Council  
Toronto City Hall

**Re: TE19.28 Ontario Line Construction Update**

Dear Chair and Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

Ward 14, including many of the most challenging sites, I wanted to be sure you were aware of the current situation on a number of different fronts.

**Impact on Parks & Trees**

Ahead of construction on the west side of the rail corridor, Metrolinx submitted an application to the City for the removal of 87 trees, many of them in Bruce Mackey Park & the Gerrard-Carlaw Dog Park related to the above ground (Joint Corridor) section of the Ontario Line.

Taking a broader, project-wide approach to evaluating these requests the City continued to have questions about how Metrolinx was protecting local residents and businesses, and the planned interim and final plans for the restoration of the parks and greenspace around the Joint Corridor.

Over the holidays Metrolinx informed the City that they would both issue a Notice of Expropriation and use their power under the *Building Transit Faster Act* to compel the City to issue permits for the removal or injury of up to 87 trees along the corridor.

**Affordable Housing & Rental Replacement**

The Ontario Line construction has resulted in a number of planned and unplanned expropriations in Ward 14. These include a number of vulnerable tenants in rooming houses and in second story apartments above businesses.

In Ward 14 Metrolinx has identified approximately 163 people who they have already relocated. Overwhelming majority of these tenants have lived in secure rent-controlled apartments. One concern is the ability of these tenants to maintain these living arrangements after the one year of support runs out or their cash settlement is exhausted. All of these tenants have had to sign confidentiality agreements, which leaves them unsure if they can speak about their experiences.

Metrolinx has brought on an organization with a long history of successfully relocating hard to house tenants, which has already proven successful. A tenant who was couch surfing has been relocated into social housing, proving the success of the model.

## **Noise & Vibration Impacts**

One of the most frequent complaints from residents is noise and vibration impacts of construction. This can range from sustained vibrations during the piling work where residents report vibrations that are palpable in their homes, to noise from construction beginning at 6 a.m. if not happening overnight.

Not every property owner has had the opportunity to have a BCA Property assessment completed. Residents are frustrated with Metrolinx and feel that their complaints go unaddressed.

## **Supporting Small Businesses**

The Pape Village BIA has lost 20% of their total BIA levy from buildings Metrolinx expropriated. Once Metrolinx acquires the buildings they have the right to convert the normal property tax and BIA Levy payments into PILTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) to the City. Currently these revenues are not shared with the BIA. This has led to two blocks of empty storefronts and second story apartments which will be the case for many years.

## **Traffic & Parking Impacts**

Despite happening mostly within Metrolinx property or underground the traffic and parking impacts of the Ontario Line are extensive. These include lane restrictions under the bridges along the Joint Corridor to Metrolinx's initial request to use an additional 121 Toronto Parking Authority spots around Pape and Danforth.

## **Relocation of Pape School**

The decision to build a 2 km above ground section of the Ontario Line from Eastern to Gerrard has had extreme consequences on a number of fronts.

Just last week the TDSB announced they would have to move the entire school and childcare population of Pape School to another site on Jones for the duration of the sewer work under the school. This sewer relocation was required to build the Ontario Line under Pape Avenue and to save development opportunities on the Loblaws site to the south.

As well, in the summer of 2024, Metrolinx announced the surprise expropriation of 25 homes related to the requirements of construction of the portal to accommodate the above ground line getting back underground.

## **Recommendations:**

**City Council direct the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services in consultation with General Manager, Economic Development, and the Chief Financial Officer to review all ways that City can reinstate its portion of the Levy for these properties Metrolinx has expropriated and report to the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee**

**City Council direct the Executive Director, Transit Expansion to request Metrolinx to beautify the properties on Pape in concert with Urban Design and city's mural program.**

**City Council direct the Executive Director, Transit Expansion to request Metrolinx to continue outreach for residents to have a Pre-condition survey/Building Condition Assessment and request city staff to include the outreach and uptake rate in the next quarterly report.**

**City Council direct the Executive Director, Transit Expansion to request Metrolinx to continue to work with Transit Expansion and the Housing Secretariat to identify tenants previously relocated by Metrolinx whose current tenure may end, have not yet been housed, or who remain in vulnerable circumstances to ensure that these individuals do not become shelter residents or worst case homeless.**

**City Council direct the Executive Director, Transit Expansion to request Metrolinx to assist the TDSB with traffic management due to the relocation of Pape School to Jones Avenue**

**City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services in consultation with the Executive Director, Transit Expansion to request Metrolinx to review a potential permit parking area for the residents of Muriel Avenue & Gertrude Ave, which would include the ability for them to park in permit area 8A, for the duration of the permit parking loss on Gertrude Avenue & Muriel Avenue due to Ontario Line construction**

Sincerely,



Paula Fletcher  
City Councillor  
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth