
June 4, 2025

Toronto and East York Community Council
City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
c/o Toronto City Clerk
Email: teycc@toronto.ca



Re: Submission on Item 2025.TE23.29 – Ontario Line – Construction Update (Q2 2025)

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

On behalf of the **B.O.L.D. (Building Ontario Line Differently) Community Coalition**, we are writing to express our continued and urgent concerns regarding the implementation of the Ontario Line project, as outlined in the Q2 2025 construction update (Item 2025.TE23.29). This submission builds upon our prior letter to the Executive Committee dated **May 13, 2025**, which raised key concerns about the lack of enforceable commitments to affordability, equity, and transparency in transit-oriented infrastructure projects.

While we appreciate the City's efforts to monitor Ontario Line development, the current update and accompanying attachments highlight a pattern of incomplete engagement, insufficient data transparency, and ongoing neglect of community voices.

1. Terms of Reference for CLCs Remain Unadopted

Despite prior commitments, **Metrolinx continues to operate Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) without adopting the co-developed Terms of Reference** negotiated with community members. These terms are essential to ensure that CLCs function as meaningful spaces of collaboration rather than symbolic forums.

Attachment 2 refers generally to CLCs but fails to acknowledge that Metrolinx has not accepted or implemented the proposed Terms of Reference, but rather sought to unilaterally impose their alternate Terms of Reference that differ from those agreed upon, and, to our knowledge, has yet to introduce any Terms of Reference to the CLCs. **Metrolinx's top-down processes exclude community oversight and reduce accountability.**

We urge Council to advocate for the **immediate adoption of co-developed Terms of Reference** as a precondition for any future consultation efforts.

2. Lack of Transparency in Local Hiring and Community Benefits

The Q2 staff report (Section 2.5.1) notes that Metrolinx has met its **10% equity hiring target**, but no project-level or postal code-based data is provided to substantiate this claim. This obscures whether residents in communities most impacted by construction are truly benefitting.

Moreover, Attachment 2 references that City staff continue to work with Metrolinx. Critically, **community stakeholders have not been invited to participate**, raising questions about the legitimacy of the process and the meaning of “community benefits” absent community representation.

We call on Council to:

- **Mandate disaggregated, project-level data reporting** on hiring, procurement, and training outcomes.
 - **Ensure community representation in all benefits-related governance structures**, including Metrolinx Stakeholder Working Group.
 - **Ensure timely governance**, including quarterly publishing of data and quarterly Community Benefits Stakeholder Working Group meetings.
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3. Inconsistent Accountability for Construction Impacts

The Q2 report and Attachment 1 omit crucial information regarding **noise, vibration, and construction route monitoring**, despite existing community concerns and prior commitments to monitor and report such data.

Recent incidents, including the unauthorized use of **King Street East by heavy trucks**, illustrate the lack of enforcement and public communication regarding alternate routes. Residents are left to document infractions on their own, with no clear recourse.

We recommend:

- **Immediate publication of noise and vibration monitoring data** in accessible formats.
- **Creation of a City-Metrolinx public issues tracker** to log complaints, infractions, and response times.
- **Visible identification protocols for contractors and subcontractors**, including name tags and vehicle signage.

4. Community Education and Rights Awareness

As emphasized by members of our coalition during the June 3rd Steering Committee, many residents—particularly seniors, newcomers, and low-income tenants—remain unaware of their rights during major infrastructure developments.

We propose a joint City-Metrolinx initiative to develop a “**Know Your Rights**” campaign, including:

- Construction and noise standards
- Designated truck routes and environmental protections
- Channels for complaints and escalation
- Printed and digital materials in multiple languages

This campaign must be co-developed with local organizations to ensure relevance and cultural accessibility.

5. Infrastructure Ontario and the Corktown TOC Delay

We are concerned by the recent decision from **Infrastructure Ontario (IO)** to **postpone restarting Corktown Transit-Oriented Community (TOC) community engagement to Fall 2025**, despite previously communicating plans for public consultation in June. Since last Fall, IO TOC program leadership have repeatedly declined BOLD Coalition requests for updates. This latest delay reflects a troubling pattern of **non-transparent decision-making and poor follow-through**.

We request that TEYCC:

- **Formally request an update from IO** on its revised plans and engagement strategy for Ontario Line TOCs
 - **Reaffirm the City’s expectation** that IO consult communities in advance of major design or development changes
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6. Need for Coordinated Reporting to Community Councils

While the Q2 2025 update is directed to the **Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC)**, it omits the status of Ontario Line developments in the **North York** section—despite this being a major part of the overall project.

The North York segment includes:

- **Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Stations**
- **The Operations, Maintenance and Service Facility (OMSF)**
- **The Guideway**
- **Two Don Valley bridge crossings**

In response to **City Council Motion MM16.31**

(<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.MM16.31>), City staff submitted a Q4 2024 update to North York Community Council (see: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/ny/bgrd/backgroundfile-249340.pdf>).

However, this current Q2 2025 update omits reference to North York activities entirely.

To ensure transparency, alignment, and geographic clarity, we recommend that **City staff provide updates to all relevant Community Councils (TEYCC and North York) at the same time**, with dedicated, area-specific reports. Doing so will prevent confusion about the status of the Ontario Line's multiple sections and strengthen public understanding and accountability across impacted neighbourhoods.

Conclusion and Recommendations

To address the above concerns and to uphold the City's commitment to equitable, transparent, and community-led development, we respectfully urge the Toronto and East York Community Council to adopt the following motions:

1. **Direct Metrolinx to adopt the community-developed Terms of Reference for Community Liaison Committees (CLCs)** to ensure meaningful and accountable community engagement.
2. **Request timely and disaggregated local hiring and procurement data**, including postal code-level breakdowns, to assess whether equity targets are being met in the communities directly impacted by Ontario Line construction.

3. **Ensure meaningful community representation in all community benefit-related subcommittees and advisory groups**, including the Metrolinx Stakeholder Working Group and the City-Metrolinx Community Benefits Subcommittee.
4. **Establish a joint public-facing tracker** for logging complaints, infractions, and resolution timelines, and **publish noise and construction data regularly** in accessible formats.
5. **Support the development and rollout of a multilingual “Know Your Rights” campaign**, co-created with local organizations to empower residents—particularly seniors, newcomers, and low-income tenants—to monitor and respond to construction-related impacts.
6. **Request a formal update from Infrastructure Ontario (IO)** regarding delayed engagement for the Corktown Transit-Oriented Community (TOC), including revised timelines and a public consultation strategy.
7. **Call on City staff to provide concurrent Ontario Line construction updates to both the Toronto and East York and North York Community Councils**, with geographically specific reporting. This will help avoid confusion and ensure consistent accountability across all affected neighbourhoods, including Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, and key infrastructure components in North York.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership and remain committed to working in partnership with the City to ensure the Ontario Line delivers inclusive, accountable, and community-responsive outcomes.

Sincerely,

Walied Khogali Ali & Liz Driver
Co-Chairs

B.O.L.D. (Building Ontario Line Differently) Community Coalition

Email: boldcoalition.to@gmail.com

Phone: 416-625-7712

Attachment:

- [*BOLD Coalition Submission to Executive Committee – May 13, 2025 \(Re: Item 2025.EX23.2\)*](#)
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