

NOTICE OF MOTION

Ensuring Community Protections and Electrification Commitments for the Bloor-Lansdowne GO Station

Moved by: Councillor Bravo

Seconded by: Councillor Fletcher

SUMMARY:

The Province's transit agency, Metrolinx, is leading the expansion of the Barrie GO Line, including the construction of the new Bloor-Lansdowne GO station located south of Bloor Street and west of Lansdowne Avenue.

When Metrolinx's plans to run electrified rail service along the Barrie line were put on indefinite hold, significant gaps in infrastructure protection became evident for residents living south of Bloor Street along the Barrie GO corridor. While noise barriers are in place along nearby sections of the corridor, no barriers are proposed for the densely populated residential stretch immediately adjacent to the new station.

Noise and vibration mitigation is particularly important at the station location because trains will idle while passengers embark and disembark, and locomotive sounds, vibration, and emissions will rise as trains exit the station. Train service along this section of the line is projected to significantly increase in the coming years, with trains entering or exiting the station in either direction every 7.5 minutes, leading to increased noise and diesel exhaust from the locomotives, and loud bell ringing (over 70 decibels) from approaching trains.

The Bloor-Lansdowne GO station is adjacent to a number of residential communities, with some residents in very close proximity to the new station. Many in the surrounding community are supportive of transit expansion, but infrastructure expansion must not come at the expense of local residents' health and quality of life.

Metrolinx already uses noise walls and bell mitigation strategies across other parts of its network. This motion requests that the Province and Metrolinx apply these standard mitigation tools equally to the Davenport community to protect neighbours from the impacts of expanded diesel rail service, and that Metrolinx upholds a commitment to full line electrification.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council request Metrolinx to install noise barrier walls along the Barrie GO corridor south of Bloor Street, appropriately sized for current and projected GO diesel locomotive traffic volumes, and consistent with adjacent properties along the Barrie corridor.

2. City Council request Metrolinx to develop and implement a train bell mitigation plan and other point-of-emission mitigations for the Bloor-Lansdowne GO Station, and every station along the Barrie GO line in the City of Toronto, to ensure safe, quiet rail operations.
3. City Council request the Ontario Minister of Transportation to accelerate the electrification of the Barrie GO line to eliminate diesel pollution and lower engine noise impact for local residents, and to provide a commitment and confirmed timeline for full electrification.
4. City Council request Metrolinx to expedite its assessment of noise mitigation requirements for the Bloor–Lansdowne GO Station and construct them before the station opens and prior to the implementation of expanded train service.

July 29, 2026