

Consultation Summary

Open House on Final Proposed Secondary Plan

This report is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting, but instead provides a summary of the meeting's format and participant feedback. If you have any questions after reviewing this summary, please contact Annely Zonena, Senior Planner, Strategic Initiatives, City of Toronto, City Planning Division at Annely.Zonena@toronto.ca or 416-338-3105.

Meeting Overview

On Wednesday, January 30 2019, City Planning staff hosted an Open House at the Ontario Science Centre at 770 Don Mills Road from 5 – 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to present Don Mills Crossing's final proposed Secondary Plan for review and feedback. The format of the meeting was an Open House with panels on the final proposed policy directions and policies

Over 40 people participated in the meeting. The majority of participants were generally between the ages of 35-70 and of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. There was a mix of those who had attended Don Mills Crossing's meetings before and those participating for the first time.

Meeting Background

Launched in October 2016, the Don Mills Crossing study examines ways to focus and shape anticipated growth around the intersection of Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue East anchored by the transit infrastructure being constructed as part of the Crosstown LRT.

The study is now in its third and final phase. In June 2018, City Council adopted a Proposals Report and Draft Secondary Plan for Don Mills Crossing and directed staff to undertake additional consultation.

The draft policy framework provides for a new connected network of streets, parks, open spaces and natural areas around which a complete community will develop. It reflects the outcomes of multiple phases of work and input provided by residents and stakeholders through a number of community meetings, open houses and pop-up events.

Mobility Plan Study

The City of Toronto has completed a Mobility Planning Study (MPS) to address transportation infrastructure needs in the vicinity of the Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue East. The MPS was prepared in accordance with Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and complements the preferred land use and built form scenario in the Don Mills Crossing Planning Study.

The MPS was placed on the public record for a 30 day review period from January 16, 2019 to February 15, 2019. For questions or requests for additional information related to the MPS please contact Arthur Lo, City Planning, Transportation Planning at (416) 395-7118 or Arthur.Lo@toronto.ca.

Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA)

A Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA) for the Don Mills and Eglinton area is now complete. Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) was retained by the City of Toronto to conduct the CHRA.

The CHRA is a result of a one-year project conducted in three phases. The result of the CHRA determined 19 properties of cultural heritage value or interest recommended for consideration for inclusion on the City's Heritage Register. The Assessment is now available for review at www.toronto.ca/donmillscrossing.

For more information on the CHRA or to provide feedback, please contact the City's project manager for the Don Mills Crossing CHRA, Pourya Nazemi, Heritage Planner, City Planning, at (416)-338-5702 or Pourya.Nazemi@toronto.ca

Summary of Feedback

Land Use and Built Form

Overall there was strong support for the mix of uses introduced in the Secondary Plan area, specifically the introduction of retail uses.

Participants appreciated the mix of building types in the Secondary Plan area ranging from townhouses, midrise and tall towers. The maximum building heights permitted in the Secondary Plan area were also supported.

Parks and Public Realm

There was strong support, overall, for the Public Realm Plan. Participants specifically appreciated additional connections across Eglinton Avenue, the underground connection to the Science Centre Station, new connections into the Don Valley ravine, and new parks in the area.

Cultural Heritage

Participants expressed strong support for the Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment which scanned all properties within the CHRA study area to identify the existing and potential heritage properties. It was felt that the identification of Modernist buildings as 'heritage' is both an interesting and challenging approach.

Participants raised a few questions related to existing and potential heritage properties in the area. These include: the potential development on 7-11 Rochefort and its adjacency to 10 St. Dennis Drive (existing heritage property) and 789 Don Mills Rd (identified as a potential heritage property) and the protection of the identified view to 789 Don Mills Rd (Foresters) in the Secondary Plan. There were also a few questions related to the CHRA's next steps, and how to support the City's efforts to protect identified potential heritage properties.

Housing and Community Services and Facilities

Participants supported the introduction of new facilities in the area such as new child care centres and the Don Mills Civitan Arena replacement (on the Celestica lands). They expressed

the need for minimizing the time period between the closure of the existing arena and the opening of the replacement area. Some participants raised questions around the pick-up and drop-off area near the arena, so that parents can drop off their children with hockey gear without causing congestion on the Wynford Drive extension.

Mobility

Multiple participants expressed an interest in the active crossing over the rail corridor, and potential future connections into the ravine. There was positive feedback related to the robust cycling network in the area through the Public Realm Plan and the integration of planned cycling facilities through other initiatives. Participants also strongly supported the expanded road network and connectivity, though there were some questions raised about continued traffic congestion in the area.

Event Promotion

Mail: The Meeting Notice was mailed to approximately 120 members of the Don Mills Crossing interested parties list.

Email: The Don Mills Crossing Study maintains a dedicated website and email subscribers list, currently over 400 subscribers. An e-update was sent out on January 24 promoting the Open House.

Online: The meeting was promoted through City Planning's official Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Advertisement: Two newspaper ads (East York Mirror and North York Mirror – South) were placed on January 17, 2019 for the public open house and Notice of Study Completion for the Mobility Plan Study.

What Happens with the Feedback

The feedback collected will be incorporated as a component of input gathered for Don Mills Crossing study and the City's review of development applications in the area. Other inputs include planning policy and directions (including provincial policy), inputs from the community, stakeholders, and City Divisions and agencies as well as research and technical evaluations.

Feedback will also be shared with partner divisions and agencies to support other city-wide initiatives such as Parks, Forestry and Recreation's facility planning in the area.

Next Steps

Staff will use the feedback received at the January 30th meeting to refine the final proposed Secondary Plan. Staff will present a Final Secondary Plan for consideration by Planning and Housing Committee in April 2019. Statutory notice will be mailed in advance of the meeting.

