

Maple Leaf & Rustic Neighbourhood Streets Plan Local Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Meeting Type: In-Person

Start time: 6:30 p.m. **End Time:** 8:30 p.m.

Project Overview:

In 2020, the Etobicoke York Community Council directed City staff to work with the Maple Leaf and Rustic communities to develop a plan to address community concerns related to traffic safety issues at the neighbourhood level. City staff will use a Neighbourhood Streets Plan (NSP) process to develop this plan. The project has undergone two phases of public consultation. The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was established following the second phase of consultation. The LAC is a non-political advisory body with a mandate to provide constructive feedback to the City project team as a part of public consultation for the Maple Leaf & Rustic NSP and provide insights into local residents' perspectives.

Meeting Objectives:

- Introduce the committee members and project team to each other.
- Set expectations for this committee's role.
- Develop a shared understanding of the process and issues.

Meeting Overview:

The meeting was facilitated by Rachel Yanchyshyn, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator. Councillor Nunziata thanked and welcomed the participants. A round table of introductions was done. An overview of the study and how the committee will proceed was provided by Marian Mithani, Transportation Services. This was followed by an opportunity for participants to have a group discussion on process, key issues and questions. A short handout was provided by City staff (Appendix A).

Below is a record of key points, concerns and follow up. The discussion captured is summarized below: **Q:** Question/ **A:** Answer/ **C:** Comment/ **R:** Response **Action:** Action items.

Introductions:

The members of the Local Advisory Committee introduced themselves, said how they travel around the neighbourhood, their geographic area in the neighbourhood, and something they like the most about the area.

C: I'm concerned about rush hour traffic from 4-6pm and congestion. During rush hour it is a 5 minute walk to Metro grocery store, but by car it will take 20-25 minutes to get past the light at Lawrence Avenue. It takes a long time to get downtown.

C: When walking to work early in the morning, I have almost been hit by a car, I have to wear lights in order to be seen when out walking.

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C: I want a liveable neighbourhood. To be able to drive and walk locally. To go to the bakery and the Community Centre. I want to keep the greenspace in the area and keep the neighbourhood walkable.

C: I'm concerned that the neighbourhood streets are used as bypasses for cars trying to avoid Lawrence Avenue.

C: The population growth in the GTA is high and the future Leons development will bring in more people to this area.

C: There is a change of demographics as younger residents move in, and the neighbourhood street design needs to reflect that.

C: Some streets in the area have sidewalks and others do not. On my street, which has an S-bend, there are no sidewalks and after dark this is a safety concern.

C: One-way streets are the last thing that we need in the area.

Overview of Process:

Q: What is the date that staff want to bring this report to community council?

A: City staff had been aiming to bring the recommendations of this study to council this spring. However, the project timeline has been extended to accommodate the meetings and input of the Local Advisory Committee. The report will be prepared when public consultation, including the Local Advisory Committee meeting series, has concluded.

C: Regarding the process, there have been numerous public meetings. Are we going to go through all the previous information provided? There is a lot of information. Should we do a deep dive?

R: City staff have posted detailed records of all consultation so far to the project website. We want to show that we're listening. Public feedback and responses are included in reports. The feedback we're getting from the LAC is to improve the process. Our intention for the LAC forum is to improve understanding and gather new insights to inform revised recommendations.

Q: Have you done Neighbourhood Streets Plans in other neighbourhoods?

A: The Neighbourhood Streets Plans program is a newer program. There are already many learnings from the Maple Leaf & Rustic project. There are 5 neighbourhoods added each year to undergo this process. Currently 15 projects are underway, and 3 projects have concluded. This study in Maple Leaf & Rustic also gives us the opportunity to share some learnings that can be applied to the design of the NSP program.

C: At the public drop-in meeting for Phase 2, it was a full house and people were responding negatively to the proposal. The issues that were mentioned at the meeting,

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those problems should be dealt with first, like the traffic congestion at Keele Street – this is what we should be talking about.

C: There has already been a lot of feedback. We should break it down into the areas of concern identified in Phase 1. We're hearing lots from the neighbours. If we break it down based on what we heard, we can work through the area.

C: I appreciate the fact that we're giving input, thank you for taking the time for residents to give feedback with City staff. There was surveying on Wyndale Drive for sidewalks. They spent two weeks to do the surveying and residents weren't notified. It raised the question as to what work was being done on our lawns. They only surveyed one side of the street. A postcard or notification would have been appreciated.

R: Before City staff go to the community to propose a sidewalk, there needs to be some basic engineering prework done to make sure it is feasible. That's what was happening in this case, and it's difficult to notify every time, and we also get comments from residents about too many notifications.

C: There should be subcommittee for each intersection in the area. I don't think 3 meetings is enough time. We have to look at the major areas and come back with the major recommendations. We need to do it soon or it will take another year.

C: Can we take the feedback from the other public meetings? I'm registered nurse not a designer, I want to leave it to Transportation Services for the technical pieces. Let's look at the flow of traffic and what's impeding the intersections, and there will be a cascading effect in other areas.

C: Agree, we should look at the big picture first, and then reassess afterwards.

Overview of issues and questions

LAC members agreed on issues identified in Phase 1 consultation:

- Road safety is a concern for all road users
- There are high motor vehicle speeds throughout the neighbourhood
- Concern about the impact of congestion along major corridors on neighbourhood streets
- There are limited choices for getting around without a motor vehicle
- Conflicts exist between parking, loading and motor vehicle flow especially around schools
- Concern about the impact of development on the transportation network

Q: Can we approach this in segments, for example Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue. Resolve those and then see what happens. Is that a fix we can put in place and report back? If that is successful, then can the discussion be moved to Jane Street and Lawrence Avenue?

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R: We have heard through consultation that there is a desire to control the flow of traffic in and out of the area, and that the boundary streets are also a concern.

Q: Is there Capital budget attached to major intersection work at Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue?

A: There is currently no major road reconstruction planned at the intersection of Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue, and therefore no capital budget allocated for major roadwork at that intersection. Planning studies like this one can result in findings that are used to inform the City's capital prioritization process.

C: We should focus on the major intersections and the major streets to reduce the traffic congestion and make it safer for motorists and pedestrians. If it takes money in the capital budget, we can do it. There are temporary solutions that we can do.

R: We received a lot of public input. Residents want to know what is being done to manage traffic, what are the congestion issues. We heard the main concerns about road safety, speeding and volume, and that major intersections like Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue were a concern.

Q: Do you have the statistics on speed and volume and collisions?

A: We have statistics on speed and volume on the key streets. What is available publicly is public on the City's Open Data portal, but we don't have resources to provide detailed data to individual residents. We try to summarize key information as appropriate.

C: I am in agreement with the key issues. I have concern about the parking/loading/drop-off situation at the schools. I live near the schools, and I see the cars for 10-15 minutes in the morning and longer at night. There is a lot of on-street parking when there are school events. It hadn't really impacted us for 17 years, but this past year, there were 3 or 4 soccer tournaments, and we couldn't get out of the driveway. Between the neighbour's house and ours is only 4 feet and people think that it is a spot. Our neighbours are older, what if there is a fire or an emergency? It's a concern. The drop-off zones could have been redone better when they were doing the renovations.

C: We have a problem with all the schools in the area. The parents yelling at the parking enforcement. Everyone used to walk.

Q: From any of the suggestions that come forward, if there is a cost to the improvements, could we bring that forward when the final staff report to Community Council is done?

A: We don't have the engineering expertise to do a cost estimate on major intersections; this study doesn't have that power. Staff can make a recommendation as a result of this study to look further at specific suggestions.

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C: I have developed my own proposal for the Keele Drive and Lawrence Ave intersection. *A member of the committee shared paper copies of a proposal.*

C: Lawrence Avenue West backs up to Dufflaw Road, and that traffic causes people to turn left to shortcut thorough the neighbourhood to get onto Keele Street.

Key geographic areas of concern listed during the discussion:

- Intersections (in general along the boundary roads): Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue West, Jane Street and Lawrence Avenue West, Jane Street and Falstaff Ave, Keele Street and Falstaff Avenue, Culford Road and Rustic Road.
- Points of concern: the schools in the area, the entrances to the parks, Rustic Bakery, Tim Hortons

Next Steps:

- Meeting minutes to be shared publicly and with committee members
- Agenda circulated with committee members before the next meeting

Attendees

Councillors Office

Ward York South Weston—Councillor Frances Nunziata
Geno Orsi, Executive Assistant

City of Toronto

Michelle Berquist, Transportation Services
Marian Mithani, Transportation Services
Rachel Yanchyshyn, Public Consultation Unit
Amanda Ratych, Public Consultation Unit

Local Advisory Committee Members:

Laura Albanese
David Ferro
Edy Francescutto
Luisa Giacometti
Irene Leslie
Pat Oppedisano
George Paschakis
Erin Robertson
Natalie Simonetta
Vanda Zanini
Rose Leto (absent)
Carla Marchetti (absent)
Maria Varacalli-Sturino (absent)

Appendix A (Handout provided at LAC Meeting #1)

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Councillor's welcome – 2 minutes
3. Introductions – 25 minutes
4. Overview of process and questions– 30 minutes
5. Overview of issues and questions – 30 minutes
6. Next Steps – 10 minutes

Code of Conduct

The City of Toronto is committed to conducting events and meetings in a safe and respectful environment for all participants and staff.

As a participant, you agree to:

- Treat everyone with respect
- Critique ideas, not individuals
- Abide by the City of Toronto's Anti-Harassment / Discrimination Policy, Human Rights, and Hate Activity Policy

The following will not be tolerated and may result in being asked to leave:

- Coarse language, aggression, threats, and intimidation
- Harassment, discrimination, and hate activity
- Canvassing, campaigning, or solicitation
- Behaviour that limits participation of fellow attendees
- Violence of any kind

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Guidelines for Maple Leaf & Rustic Local Advisory Committee

These guidelines outline key aspects of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for the Maple Leaf & Rustic Neighbourhood Streets Plan (NSP). It outlines how the LAC will operate and when meetings will take place.

The LAC is a non-political advisory body with a mandate to provide constructive feedback to the City Project team as part of Phase 2 of Public Consultation for the Maple Leaf & Rustic NSP and provide insights to residents' perspectives.

- **Membership:** The LAC will comprise of 9-12 members of the public who represent a variety of interests related to the Maple Leaf & Rustic neighbourhood including residents, community groups. The intent of the LAC is to represent the perspectives of different road users and people of various ages and abilities from different parts of the neighbourhood. LAC members will be recommended by the local Councillor and Ward office, in consultation with City staff. It is expected that members will commit to attending all meetings.
- **Meetings:** A series of meetings will take place over a four-month period from January to April 2025: first, an introductory online meeting followed by at least two in-person working meetings. Detailed agendas will be sent in advance of each meeting. Summary notes of each LAC meeting will be posted on the project website. LAC members will be named, but comments won't be attributed.
- **City of Toronto's participation:** The Councillor and/or Ward office staff will attend along with the project team staff from Transportation Services and the Public Consultation Unit. The project team will set the agenda, coordinate meeting logistics, and take notes.
- **Decision-making:** The LAC is not a decision-making body. It will seek to develop common ground and highlight areas of agreement of behalf of the community to the best of their ability. Members and staff will openly discuss ideas and share perspectives. Differing viewpoints and opinions will be documented in LAC meeting notes.
- **Code of Conduct:** The City of Toronto is committed to conducting events and meetings in a safe and respectful environment for all participants and staff. Members must agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct presented at the meetings to participate.

How Recommendations to Council are Made

Public Inputs

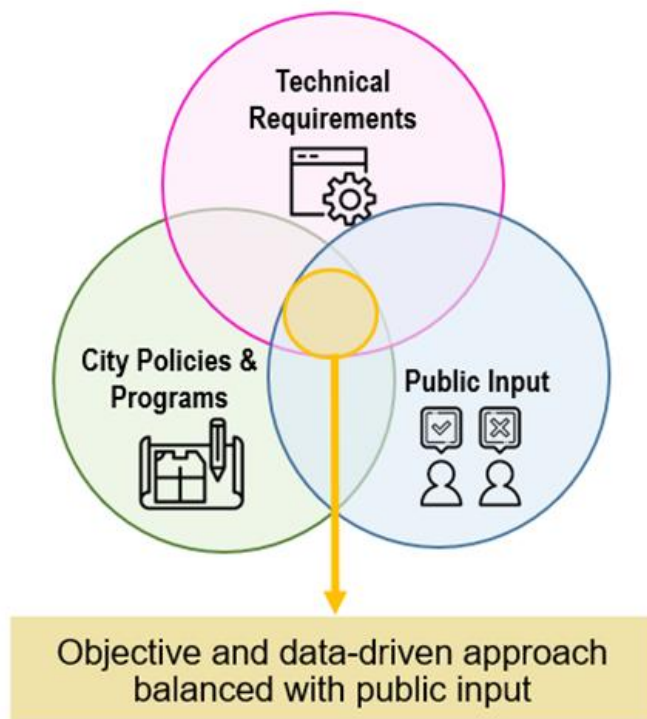
- Community expertise; sharing concerns, opportunities and priorities through lived experience

City Policies and Programs

- For example: Traffic Calming Policy, Missing Sidewalk Program, Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Technical Requirements

- Warrant analysis, feasibility and coordination with other road work projects
- Construction standards and design guidance



Overview of Issues

What we heard during Phase 1 consultation:

- Road safety is a concern for all road users
- There are high motor vehicle speeds throughout the neighbourhood
- Concern about the impact of congestion along major corridors on neighbourhood streets
- There are limited choices for getting around without a motor vehicle
- Conflicts exist between parking, loading and motor vehicle flow especially around schools
- Concern about the impact of development on the transportation network

