

**LAKESHORE EAST  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Via Microsoft Teams  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present**

**Metrolinx**

- Malcolm MacKay, Project Sponsor, Ontario Line
- Franca Di Giovanni, Director, Community Relations
- Carrie Sheaffer, Senior Manager, Environmental Programs and Assessments
- Vanessa Cheng, Team Lead, Community Relations, Ontario Line
- Susan Lin, Manager Property Acquisition
- Nima Nouri, Manager Corridor Infrastructure
- Michael Tham, Deputy Technical Director, Ontario Line
- Georgina Collymore, Manager Community Relations
- Andre Marois, Director Corridor Infrastructure
- Siricius Augustin, Senior Manager, GO Expansion, Early Works
- Houtan Moravej, Project Manager, GO Expansion
- Shelley Persaud, GO Extension Sponsor
- James Francis, Manager, EPA
- Rebecca MacDonald, Manager Environmental Programs Assessment
- Leila Sotoudeh, Environmental Project Manager
- Maria Zintechenko, Project Manager, EPA
- Daniel Cicero, Project Sponsor, Ontario Line
- Catherine Curak, Sponsor's Office)
- Josh Vandezande, Senior Manager Community Relations, Ontario Line
- Carmen Rapati, Community Relations and Issues Specialist, Lakeshore East
- Simon Granat, Community Relations and Issues Specialist, Ontario Line

**Community Representatives**

- Don Booth
- Lisa Drew
- Shelley Kline
- Rosemary Waterston
- Leila Sotoudeh
- Karen Urban (guest)
- Evelyn Casquenette
- Andrea Roberts
- Adwoa K. Buahene
- Dina Bertazon
- Rosemary Waterston

- Eric Yapp (guest)

### **City of Toronto**

- Richard Borbridge, Program Director, City of Toronto Transit Expansion Office
- Julia Murnaghan, Senior Project Manager, City of Toronto Transit Expansion Office

### **Elected Officials & Staff**

- Rishab Mehan, Councillor Bradford's Office
- Councillor Paula Fletcher
- Nicolas Valverde, Councillor Fletcher's Office
- Daryl Finlayson, Councillor Fletcher's Office
- MPP Tabuns
- Rob Kaufman, MPP Tabuns' Office

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## **1.0 SAFETY MOMENT**

Josh Vandezande provided the Safety Briefing.

## **2.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Josh Vandezande thanked all for coming and gave a safety moment and a land acknowledgement. Carmen Rapati introduced the GO Expansion Team.

## **3.0 GO EXPANSION**

Siricius Augustin presented the slide deck for the GO expansion.

Councillor Fletcher inquired about timeline for the GO Expansion procurement process, contracts and electrification. Metrolinx provided information on the three early works contracts and clarified that electrification will happen at a later date.

Rishab Mehan (Councillor Bradford's Office) asked what road closures to expect during bridge work. Additionally, a member of the LSE CAC asked what residents can expect from bridge work. Metrolinx advised that there will be lane reductions, but road closures would be minimal and may occur on a one-time basis during the weekend. Metrolinx also added that high level overview of bridge construction, noted that pile driving at night will be avoided as much as possible, and some will be augured to minimize the disruption. The first package to begin, Central Section (Woodbine to Wolcott), confirmed mobilization to start is in January and February 2021 and construction of the bridges (Woodbine Avenue, Warden Avenue and Danforth Avenue bridges) is likely to begin in the spring. Residents and CAC will

be given further notice. Grading will be both day and night work, and Metrolinx will look at ways to minimize disruptions.

A member of the LSE CAC asked Metrolinx to clarify planned work at Small's Creek and the impact on trees. Metrolinx provided information about retaining wall construction and work on North and South sides of Creek. Metrolinx agreed to follow up with further information.

Councillor Fletcher asked for specific retaining wall information. Metrolinx clarified distinction between noise walls and retaining walls. Metrolinx will send specific retaining wall location information to Councillor Fletcher's Office later this week.

Councillor Fletcher inquired about community communications plan. Metrolinx provided an overview of various tactics to keep people informed. Metrolinx to add item for next discussion to present overview of communications plan including outreach, and tactics.

A member of the LSE CAC asked about standards used for environmental mitigation efforts. Metrolinx responded that they will bring relevant staff to advise on standards for next meeting.

Councillor Fletcher and the LSE CAC asked about tree removal process and permitting. Councillor Fletcher asked for specific tree locations and plans. Metrolinx provided tree removal process overview, committed to follow up with additional information on tree impacts at Small's Creek, and provide advance notice before tree removal begins. Metrolinx clarified that the arborist report is submitted to the City of Toronto in draft and is pending their comment.

LSE CAC asked what to expect for work at Wildwood Cres. Rishab Mehan (Councillor Bradford's Office) asked about access points. Metrolinx provided an overview of mitigation measures, and community notice process.

#### **4.0 ONTARIO LINE**

Josh Vandezande provided introductions and gave an overview of the community relations plan including changes to community relations as a result of COVID-19. Josh Vandezande noted that majority of construction along the joint corridor will occur within Metrolinx property lines, and there will be few permanent property impacts. He also provided an overview of , noise mitigation plans which include sound walls and landscaping to help the new infrastructure blend into the area parks.

Councillor Fletcher and MPP Tabuns asked for cost comparison information for having the line below grade. Metrolinx explained that an underground alignment would be several times more costly, result in more negative impacts for customers

and the community.

LSE CAC read community statement and requested it be recorded:

*"CAC Community Statement on the Ontario Line - Oct. 13, 2020*

Our elected representatives and other members of the CAC are going to ask specific questions about the plan you have put forward for the Ontario Line between the Don River and Gerrard Street this evening.

Before we get into these specifics, we want to be on the record that we object to the entire premise of the Ontario Line plan for our community. You have been told many times by our CAC and feedback from our community, that we do not want this section of the Ontario Line to go above ground along the rail corridor, because of the devastating impacts it will have on us, our families and our community. We don't believe that your consultation process has had any impact since you have not done the due diligence necessary with detailed comparisons of alternative alignments on this section in your draft 'Env. Conditions Report.' Without this information the entire ECR is biased in favour of the one plan outlined in the Business Case, nor have you convinced us that this is the best plan for our neighbourhood. We continue to believe that this 2 km section should be built underground and we are extremely disappointed that you have not complied with the Toronto City Council Executive motion Ex 9.1 - 20 from October 2019 that asked Metrolinx to consider options for constructing "portions of the Ontario Line underground where local impacts cannot be reasonably managed."

We say again, that Metrolinx needs to do an unbiased, comprehensive comparison of the costs and implications to the community of putting this two-kilometre section underground. Without that comparison, we will never be convinced that the plan to run the Ontario Line along the rail corridor is what is best for our neighbourhood. We are a transit community, we believe in transit, we are your ridership, and we support an Ontario Line built right.

So, given that preamble, note that the comments and questions from our CAC members are made under this protest, we can now proceed with the ECR as it is currently drafted."

A member of the LSE CAC asked about benefits of the Ontario Line for the community. Metrolinx responded that further community benefits will be

addressed through the business case process.

A member of the LSE CAC asked about air quality analysis and methodology given reduced traffic during COVID-19 and how reduction of tree canopy will affect air quality. Metrolinx provided clarification that existing air quality measurements are based on a historical average with data from different government sources, and air quality data does not include measurements from during the COVID-19 pandemic. Future environmental studies will examine potential impacts to air quality and Metrolinx will look to mitigate contractor construction emissions.

Metrolinx also noted that a tree inventory would be part of future environmental reports, and cited tree replacement metrics included in its updated [Vegetation Guideline](#).

LSE CAC asked about why there were only two noise receptors and no vibration receptors in the Riverside neighbourhood. Metrolinx responded that monitoring locations are to aid in calibration of modelling. Metrolinx added that vibration modelling is a mathematical calculation but some sites with highly sensitive equipment (i.e. MRI machine in a hospital) have specific consideration. GO and TTC protocols are used and there is Ministerial approval on methodology before monitoring begins. Metrolinx is committed to vibration mitigation using practical and proven technology during operation and construction

LSE CAC asked how parkland will be compensated and noted the impact on the green spaces at Gerrard Station. Metrolinx advised that further information will come from the environmental impact assessment report. Amenities will be addressed in socio-economic reports. Metrolinx will look at alternatives to compensate other spaces.

Further detail provided in the attached draft ECR feedback table.

#### GO Expansion

**Action:** Metrolinx to follow up with additional information on tree impacts at Small's Creek.

**Action:** Metrolinx to provide advance notice before tree removal begins

**Action:** Metrolinx to send specific retaining wall location information to Councillor Fletcher's Office later this week.

**Action:** Metrolinx to add item for next discussion to present overview of communications plan including outreach, tactics, etc.

**Action:** Metrolinx will bring relevant staff to advise on environmental standards at next meeting.

Ontario Line

**Action:** LSE CAC to send Metrolinx community statement for inclusion in notes.

**Action:** Metrolinx to provide written responses to LSE CAC questions on the ECR.

**ACTION LIST**

**Action Item 1:** Metrolinx to follow up with additional information on tree impacts at Small's Creek.

**Action Item 2:** Metrolinx to provide advance notice before tree removal begins

**Action Item 3:** Metrolinx to send specific retaining wall location information to Councillor Fletcher's Office later this week.

**Action Item 4:** Metrolinx to add item for next discussion to present overview of communications plan including outreach, tactics, etc.

**Action Item 5:** Metrolinx will bring relevant staff to advise on environmental standards at next meeting.

**Action Item 6:** LSE CAC to send Metrolinx community statement for inclusion in notes.

**Action Item 7:** Metrolinx to provide written responses to LSE CAC questions on the ECR.