

Mr. Phil Verster, President & CEO Metrolinx

Mr. Donald Wright, Chair Metrolinx Board of Directors

Via email: ceo@metrolinx.com, Phil.Verster@metrolinx.com, chair@metrolinx.com

June 29th, 2022

Re: 1.5km elevated section of the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension through Mount Dennis parks

Good afternoon,

We're writing to add our names to the growing number of concerned residents of Mount Dennis that support expanded transit but are opposed to the proposed elevated section of the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension.

An above-ground rail line and superstructure transit stations over Jane Street and Scarlett Road would destroy our parks, wildlife and quality of life. This doesn't need to happen if Metrolinx tunnels the entire ECWE underground. Metrolinx representatives say that speed is a key business case decision. A fully tunneled LRT will provide fast speeds, less service disruptions and best cost benefit in the long term. Metrolinx, you have the time, funding and technical expertise to do the right thing. Tunnel the entire ECWE to protect our precious and irreplaceable urban green space!

Unfortunately, Metrolinx has a reputation for failing to consult in good faith with local communities . . .

Live Meetings: Metrolinx hasn't participated in meaningful discussions with communities. The virtual live meetings have been cursory PR box checking exercises rather than an exchange of ideas where the public is actually listened to. Plans and presentations were hastily delivered during the height of the pandemic crisis. Properly conducted stakeholder engagement enables a better-informed plan, which garners greater community support as the plan moves towards adoption. This doesn't happen in the communities where Metrolinx builds.

Eglinton Crosstown West Extension - Elevated Section Survey: The stated purpose was to get public feedback on potential design options for features of the elevated section and public spaces below it. Just as with the live meeting presentations, we were told what would be done while providing few to no options to choose from and limited opportunity for feedback.

Despite slick artist renderings showing the guideway adjacent to the street, Metrolinx plans to build in Eglinton Flats. Most of the trees will be removed, wildlife will be destroyed and displaced; to be replaced with concrete walls, pillars, electrified cables and huge transit stations in migratory bird paths. There's an abundance of wildlife in the parks including endangered and threatened species; legal protections need to be upheld. Climate crisis is an urgent matter and yet Metrolinx plans to replace naturalized mature parkland with concrete in our community.

The entire ECWE needs to be fully tunneled to prevent any more irreversible environmental destruction in the City of Toronto.

Please pause and genuinely listen to the serious concerns of residents in our community. We welcome the opportunity to work with Metrolinx to move forward with a better plan for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension that preserves our parks for all residents of the GTA to visit and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Heather McKinnon & Andrew Watt

Cc:

Premier Doug Ford, doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

MPP Michael Ford, Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

MP Ahmed Hussen, ahmed.hussen@parl.gc.ca

Mayor John Tory, Mayor_Tory@toronto.ca

Councillor Frances Nunziata, Councillor_Nunziata@toronto.ca

Kelly Hagan, Metrolinx VP, Community Relations Kelly.Hagan@metrolinx.com