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Subject: Tunneling the ECWE Under the Humber River and York South-Weston
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Hello Metrolinx,

My name is Mark Dieu and I have been a resident of Mount Dennis in the riding of York South-Weston for over 40 years. As I watched Toronto grow rapidly over the years, I kept thinking to myself how we desperately needed a world-class transportation system that was suitable for the world-class city we have become. You could imagine how excited I was when the Eglinton Subway line was proposed in the mid 90's, especially knowing it would run right through my riding. However, this excitement was short lived, as the project was cancelled within a year.

The Eglinton LRT rekindled my hopes in 2007, and I was looking forward to viewing the plans for the section through York South-Weston. Once again, my hope turned to despair as I realized the line would be running at-grade through my community. How could the city not realize what a disaster the St. Clair streetcar line was? The at-grade alignment was going to kill our community, and showed the city did not learn from their mistakes.

As a result, I joined a coalition of community members to voice our concerns, in hopes of having the proposal reconsidered. Our goal was to bury the Eglinton LRT underground through Mount Dennis, and we gathered hundreds of community signatures on a petition that was brought to City Hall. These efforts were rewarded, as the section of the LRT running west of Weston Road through Mount Dennis was pushed back for reconsideration in the future.

Who could have thought Metrolinx's ECWE proposal in 2019/2020 would be EVEN WORSE than the original one? The now mostly underground proposal was proof that all the concerns of the community coalition were valid and Metrolinx had to make changes to the original plan. However, with your decision to build an elevated guideway through York South-Weston, you are not not only harming the members of the community, but also causing irreparable harm to the environment. York South-Weston, and more specifically the community of Mount Dennis, is rich with parkland and green space that is vital to the local ecosystem surrounding the Humber River. The proposed 1.5km-long concrete bridge would require destruction of this precious green belt, especially during a time where the entire world is being threatened by climate change.

Previously I mentioned how the City did not learn from their mistakes as they wanted to repeat the St. Clair streetcar on Eglinton. This elevated guideway will be a repeat of the "Mistake by the Lake", as I am confident for one reason or another it will have to be torn down in the

future, just like the Gardiner Expressway bridge, or Scarborough RT line. Future generations will have to bear this cost, while also suffering the consequences of the loss of green space. It is irresponsible of Metrolinx to sacrifice the future of our children in order to save a little money in the present.

When community members tried to voice our concerns at Metrolinx's virtual meetings, all we got were PR people telling us how nothing could be changed, and how Metrolinx already decided the best plan was to build the elevated guideway. It was like talking to a wall, with Metrolinx continuing to push their agenda forward while completely ignoring any community input. In fact, one of your project managers, Joshua Engel-Yan, explicitly stated how it was technologically feasible to tunnel the ECWE under the Humber River. If that's the case, just do it! This concrete bridge was NEVER approved by the community, and frankly the lack of meaningful community consultation prior to the announcement of this concrete bridge was extremely unprofessional.

The outrage in the community was multiplied ten-fold when we realized the section of the ECWE running through the Etobicoke would be completely tunneled underground, when the original proposal was also to run it at-grade. It is no secret that York South-Weston is one of the more racially diverse and less affluent ridings, yet we still pay our taxes and our votes count just as much as any other votes. It was clear from your proposal that Metrolinx only thinks of us as second-class citizens, and we will not tolerate this disrespect.

I am demanding that the ECWE be tunneled underneath York South-Weston and the Humber River.

Regards,

Mark Dieu