



June 29, 2022

Don Wright, Metrolinx Board Chair  
and  
Phil Verster, Metrolinx President & CEO

Attn:  
Matt Clark, Chief Capital Officer  
Karla Avis-Birch, Chief Planning Officer

**Re: Requesting Review of Elevated Section of Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE)**

Dear Mr. Wright, Mr. Verster and Members of the Metrolinx Board

As you are aware, the Mayor and Council of the City of Toronto has supported our request to call upon Metrolinx for an objective review of the 3 design approaches for the Eglinton Crosstown Extension route between Mount Dennis Station and east of Scarlett Road. This is required due to the failure to involve members of the communities most affected by the impacts of a heat of the moment decision to use a “hybrid” approach, and to exclude them from decisions leading up to its approval in the ECWE Initial Business Case. Instead of a design process we had been led to believe would be further discussed locally, we have been stonewalled for nearly 2 years in our attempt to engage in honest dialogue on what became evident as a pre-determined engineering design.

It was not until a walkabout with ECWE Project Team members and members of the local neighbourhood earlier this month was the on-the-ground perspective of potential for destruction of wildlife habitat and forested parkland understood by the ECWE Project Team as being significant. This is an area of environmental and cultural heritage that traffic engineering involved in building the proposed 1.5 km LRT Expressway Bridge does not demonstrate any respect towards and is highly out of character, amplifying vehicles over people. The plan to use one third of Pearen Park, a local children’s playground immediately adjacent people’s homes, as a construction yard for heavy equipment and materials adds a significant safety threat as well as a major disturbance source. The valuable community asset of a newly constructed bike path and public connection to the Eglinton Flats parks was now in the way of heavy machinery to be used to build the elevated section and would be out of service until project completion, which we have been advised

is eight years away. The blockage of an access road to Fergy Brown Park by the proposed elevated structure will mean that additional forested areas are now planned to be clear cut.

This is an area of environmental and cultural heritage that engineering for the proposed 1.5 km LRT Expressway Bridge simply does not fit the character of the area it passes through. It does not require much more than a single visit to see how it will be harmed immeasurably. After-the- fact beautification efforts alluded to in the social marketing survey undertaken earlier this spring by the ECWE team will not repair such unnecessary damage.

Your staff finally experienced the determination of the Mount Dennis community to find a way to minimize the impacts of running a transit line across Eglinton Flats and past the Humber River when we met for a walk-and-talk. We are a transit-oriented community, and not ignorant about what has transpired. We know that tendering is at the early stage, and that it is possible to change if there is the political will to do so. Today, we ask you to work with us on finding a collaborative solution that truly avoids impacts and minimizes where they must happen.

We understand that we were not given any say in the decision on a hybrid design of tunnel and bridge. We question why transit should be built in such a damaging way. With support indicated by the City and members of the Mount Dennis community, we respectfully request the Metrolinx Board to instruct your staff to enter into a six month community engagement and design review process of this segment where underground and at-grade middle of the road designs are considered objectively, and adjustments to current procurement is determined once a final design is arrived at.

On behalf of the Mount Dennis ecoNeighbourhood Initiative,

**Mike Mattos**

**Rick Ciccarelli**

cc. Mayor John Tory  
York South Weston City Councillor Frances Nunziata  
York South Weston MPP Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
York South Weston MP Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Minister of Diversity and Inclusion  
Caroline Mulroney, Ontario Minister of Transportation