Joint Corridor Design Excellence Working Group

Retaining Wall, Noise Barrier, and Landscape Design

Working Group Presentation

JANUARY 24 2022

Ontario Line - GO Transit Joint Corridor

Agenda

- Land acknowledgement
- Design Review Joint Corridor Design Excellence Working Group
- Presentation
 - Joint Corridor procurement packages
 - Design Excellence at Metrolinx precedent projects
 - Joint Corridor Design Principles, Process, and Proposals
 - Community survey results
 - Retaining walls, noise barriers, and landscape design proposals
 - Metrolinx Graffiti Management Strategies

Discussion / Next Steps

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Land acknowledgement

Let us take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples including the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples.

We are all Treaty people. Many of us have come here as settlers and immigrants...in this generation or generations past.

Metrolinx declares its commitment to building meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

We acknowledge the historic and continued impacts of colonialization and the need to work towards meaningful reconciliation with the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge that Metrolinx operates on lands covered by 20 Treaties, and that we have a responsibility to recognize and value the rights of Indigenous Nations and Peoples and conduct business in a manner that is built on the foundation of trust, respect and collaboration.

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Safety Moment

Follow these tips from Public Safety Canada to stay healthy this winter:

1. Get informed and go outdoors: Before heading out, complete a trip plan and leave it with friends or family.

2. Stay safe indoors: Fire prevention and safety – make sure you have working smoke alarms, don't leave burning candles unattended and if a pot catches fire while cooking, put a lid on it.

3. Check your family emergency kit: You likely have some basic emergency kit items already in your home, such as a flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets – make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry.



4. Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle: Prepare an emergency kit and keep it in your vehicle. Refresh the supplies for winter. For example, add an extra blanket or new food items.

5. Check weather reports

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Design Review & Design Workshops Joint Corridor Design Excellence Working Group

PROPOSED JOINT CORRIDOR WORKING GROUP

Membership: community stakeholders, elected officials, City of Toronto and Metrolinx staff

Mandate: The DXWG will be a forum for discussions, workshops, and two-way communication between Metrolinx and key stakeholders related to the Lakeshore East - Ontario Line Joint Corridor project.

Resources: The design consultants with the Ontario Line Technical Advisor Team will be a resource for all participants in the working group process.

Elected Officials

Councillor Fletcher Staff Contact: Daryl Finlayson MP Dabrusin Staff Contact: Greg Barley MPP Tabuns Staff Contact: Rob Kaufman

Community Representatives

Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee Shelley Kline / Rosemary Waterston / Paul Backewich Save Jimmie Simpson! Eon Song or Maggi Redmonds

Community Representatives (continued)

Riverside BIA Jennifer Lay, Executive Director Leslieville BIA Christiane Tetreault, Chair of the Board Tiverton Avenue community advocate Alex Bielecki First Avenue Townhouse Condos Tony Whitaker, President of the Condominium Board EastEnd Transit Alliance Claire Hastings

PROPOSED JOINT CORRIDOR WORKING GROUP

City of Toronto

Transit Expansion Office (TEO) Richard Borbridge Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) David Burns City Planning (CP) Renita D'Souza Parks Development & Capital Projects (PDCP) Ann-Marie Nasr Tina Fernandes Bridges, Structures & Expressways (BSE) Josephine Yung

Metrolinx

Ontario Line Sponsor Malcolm Mackay Ontario Line Sponsor Daniel Cicero Design Division John Potter Community Engagement Mark Clancy Early Works Project Delivery Team Andre Marois Nima Nouri

Ontario Line Technical Advisors (OLTA)

Regional Director/ Transportation Architecture Principle, HDR Celia Johnstone Senior Urban Designer, SvN Klaudia Biala Landscape Architect, SvN Luke Kairys Regional Director/ Transportation Architecture Principle, HDR Paulo Faria

TERMS OF REFERENCE - DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Leading with Design

- At Metrolinx we understand that the construction of new transit can have both short- and long-term impacts communities.
- We also understand that stitching new transit infrastructure into the existing urban fabric is a complex task that benefits from insight provided by municipal staff and community groups who have extensive knowledge of the local area.

Objective

• Our objective is to apply principles of Design Excellence in the development of a series of creative solutions to the address challenge presented by the work being undertaken in the Joint Corridor through the Riverside and Leslieville neighbourhoods



Members of the Design Excellence Working Group live, work, and run businesses in this community. Your local knowledge will be a benefit to this project.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - MEETINGS

Design Excellence Working Group Meetings:

- An agenda will be shared in advance of each meeting.
- Each session will last approximately two hours.
- The format will be structured as a workshop to discuss ideas and develop proposals.

Note: each of the three packages for the Joint Corridor have separate deadlines for input into the tender documents.



Concept renderings illustrating how an integrated approach to the design of the retaining wall, noise barrier, landscape, trees, and vegetation.

THE DESIGN EXCELLENCE WORKING GROUP PROCESS

How does the working group process work?

- The working group will be a forum for discussions, design workshops, and two-way communication between Metrolinx and key stakeholders related to the Lakeshore East Ontario Line Joint Corridor project.
- The images below are from an earlier excellence workshop for the Davenport Diamond Project.
 Note: until public health guidelines permit in-person meetings we will aim to recreate this process virtually.



These workshops are an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and constructive feedback.

Community members worked directly with the design consultants.

Visits to site by all participants is a critical tool in developing a common understanding of both the issues and opportunities.

INTRODUCTION - JOINT CORRIDOR FOCUS AREAS

Schedule and topics for the Design Excellence Working Group

- The agendas and the schedule for future workshops will be discussed with this Working Group.
- Future sessions can focus on specific areas along the Joint Corridor (see below), the Queen Street Underpass, graffiti management, and overall landscape strategies.



OVERVIEW OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY



Development of landscape and urban design concepts

Retaining Wall, Noise Barrier, Landscape Design Concepts

- Metrolinx has worked with the City of Toronto to develop a series of design concepts (a kit of parts) for retaining walls, noise barriers, and landscape design for the Joint Corridor.
- The focus of these concepts was to mitigate impacts to the adjacent parks and neighbourhoods.

SUMMARY: PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY: PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS **Priorities**: Participants indicated that the priorities for the project should be minimizing Participants indicated that a mix of decidud background noise levels, protecting existing trees, introducing new trees and plant should be planted. and minimizing the visual and physical impacts of both the passing trains and the Participants recommended that faster growing tree species be expanded rail corridor selected to quickly restore removed canopy. The community feedback focused on four key issues Underpass Design 1. Noise Mitigation Participants suggested the wall surface patterns should be simple 2. Mitigation of Visual Impacts and allow for the inclusion of public art murals. Participants consistently indicated that landscaping and planting features should be designed to conceal the new walls as much as Participants indicated that the underpass design should prioritize possible deterring graffiti and creating a bright environment with no unlit 3. Graffiti Deterrence Participants ted that the design features should deter graffi Many participar Participants consistently expressed desire for as many new trees and vegetation to be planted as possible, and that fast-growing tree specie be selected so that the tree canopy height is guickly restored. Link to the online questionnaire: https://metrolinx-ontario-line-enga

Online public survey asking the community to provide feedback on the landscape concepts

Online Public Survey (September 23 to October 24, 2022)

• The objective of the survey was to solicit feedback from the Community on concepts for retaining walls, noise barriers, and landscape design proposals.

JOINT CORRIDOR PROCUREMENT PACKAGES

Package 1 - Early Works (Civil)

- Design-Bid-Build (DBB) procurement model
- 100% design package released for tender

Scope

- Scope includes construction of retaining walls, noise barriers, bridges, and trackwork
- The DXWG will review retaining wall and bridge abutment surface finishes, noise barrier specifications, and underpass lighting
- Determine extent of removals (existing retaining walls/infrastructure, etc.) along the existing parks/playgrounds to "build back better"

Schedule

- Detailed design (70%) submission to stakeholders January 14, 2022
- <u>Deadline for input into the detailed design</u> February 21, 2022
- RFP In-Market April 2022 July 2022
- Construction Start September 2022



Package 1 - Early Works - Civil



Package 2 - Early Works - Landscape



Package 3 - OL North Contract

JOINT CORRIDOR PROCUREMENT PACKAGES

Package 2 - Landscape Design and Implementation

- Design-Bid-Build (DBB) procurement model
- 100% design package released for tender
- Landscape design scope including vegetated terraces and/or embankments, tree planting, furniture and fixtures

Scope

 The landscape design scope will include park remediation, underpass and streetscape enhancement, tree and vegetation strategies, embankments, terraces, park furniture

Schedule

- Scope finalized and Technical Advisor onboarded Mid-2022
- Detailed design and construction procurement 2023
- Construction begins 2024, completion TBD

Tree Replacement and the Accrual of Benefit Over Time

- The benefits of landscape design, and plantings, accrue over time which is why effort should be made to project mature trees and vegetation whenever feasible.
- Planting early in the project delivery process accelerates the benefits new trees and vegetation bring to the community.



Package 1 - Early Works - Civil



Package 2 - Early Works - Landscape



Package 3 - OL North Contract

JOINT CORRIDOR PROCUREMENT PACKAGES

PACKAGE 3 - ONTARIO LINE (OL) NORTH CONTRACT

- Public Private Partnership (P3) procurement model
- Output Specifications and Reference Concept Designs will be released for tender
- Scope includes the construction of the new stations at Queen Street and Gerrard

Scope

• Scope includes the construction of the new stations at Queen Street and Gerrard

Schedule

- There will be multiple rounds of stakeholder reviews, ongoing coordination meetings and community engagements to be scheduled for 2022
- Request for Proposal (RFP) Release September 2022
- RFP Issue January 2023
- RFP Close February 2024
- Construction Start April 2024



Package 1 - Early Works - Civil



Package 2 - Early Works Landscape



METROLINX DESIGN GUIDELINES

DGL-01 DESIGN GUIDELINE NOISE AND VIBRATION MITIGATION

VERSION 1.1 NOVEMBER 2021



DGL-02

DESIGN GUIDELINE VEGETATIVE SCREENING FOR NOISE BARRIERS

VERSION 1.1 NOVEMBER 2021



DGL-03 DESIGN GUIDELINE GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT

VERSION 1.1 NOVEMBER 2021



| Category | Noise Barrier Options | Illustrations | Illustrations: Approaches to Vegetative |
|----------|--|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Base Noise Barriers Base design specification • Meets commitment outcomes from the Environmental Assessment process • Noise barriers must be technically, administratively, operationally and economically feasible | | |
| 2 | Aesthetically Enhanced Noise Barriers • Enhanced features to mitigate negative visual impacts • Extended palette of noise barrier components (enhanced design specifications) to counter significant visual impacts in sensitive locations • Meets all the requirements of the Base Design Specification | | Figure 2: Vegetadre screening can help to concert, of concollage, where barries and retaining we's |
| 3 | Third Party Scope Requests • Response to third party scope requests (assessed on a case by case basis) • The objective is to support specific third party requests and/or municipal planning and urban design objectives • Meets all the requirements of the Base Design Specification | CALARENS CONTRACTOR | Figure SV vegetative screening can restore, or improve, a alle impacted by construction Post-construction |
| 4 | Murals & Public Art Treatments Public art or murals applied as a surface treatment to noise walls Public art or mural projects are typically procured, implemented, and maintained by municipalities or other third parties Meets all the requirements of the Base Design Specification | | Figure 6: Vites cin same a dual function of providing vegatative kneeting and deterring graftic |



Figure 9: The planting of vines are a proven method of deterring tagging or graffition walls and structures vines on walls and structures <u>unless approved</u> in advance

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DESIGN EXCELLENCE AT METROLINX - PRECEDENT PROJECTS

Davenport Diamond Project

The project includes a new elevated rail guideway and public realm project (called *The Greenway*). The project will include a linear park, multi-use trail, and a pedestrian and cycle crossing over the CP Rail tracks.





• *The Greenway* will transform the space made available by the elevated guideway into an amenity for use by the communities on both sides or the rail corridor.





DAVENPORT DIAMOND PROJECT - CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Davenport Diamond Project

Metrolinx is currently building the Davenport Diamond elevated guideway, Once the guideway is complete the work on the public realm improvements will commence.



• The guideway is a unique structure incorporating design features that have been developed specifically for this neighbourhood.





DESIGN EXCELLENCE AT METROLINX - PRECEDENT PROJECTS

Young Street, Aurora Rail Bridge

As part of the GO Expansion program a second bridge is being added over Yonge Street in Aurora to facilitate increased service on the Barrie Line. **Key Benefits:**

- The Town of Aurora urban design policy framework identified the railway overpass as the southern gateway to the town.
- The bridge cladding project was initiated to support of a major municipal planning and urban design initiative for downtown Aurora.



The Yonge Street rail bridge is viewed by as a landmark and a threshold signifying the southern entry point into the Town of Aurora.



The bridge cladding and signage concept were designed to support the urban design objectives of both the town and region.

Ordnance Switching Station

This facility will be located at the eastern tip of the Ordnance Triangle visible **Key Benefits:**

- The Ordnance facility was designed with input from key external stakeholders to compliment the adjacent Fort York National Historic Site, the new Ordnance Triangle Park, and the Garrison Crossings.
- The design of the enclosure was intended to create a new urban landmark in this part of the City of Toronto.



The Ordnance Switching Station will be a critical piece of infrastructure serving the Union Station Rail Corridor..



Plan view and details of Ordnance Switching Station enclosure

Joint Corridor Design Principles, Process, and Proposals

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN OBJECTIVES

Design principles provide a set of aspirational goals for a project against which designs can be 'measured' both at the outset and throughout the development process.



TREE PROTECTION AND THE SELECTION OF RETAINING WALL SYSTEM

Objective: Protect as many trees as possible

- Metrolinx has been exploring different construction methodologies to determine how to minimize the areas of disturbance arising out of the assembly of the retaining walls on site.
- The impact on adjacent trees was a key criteria in the selection of the optimal retaining wall system.
- Metrolinx will be using T-Walls as it allows for construction of the retaining walls from within guideway (Metrolinx owned lands).
- This will result in reduced impacts to adjacent sites including parks.

T-Wall retaining wall system

- Reduces space and clearances required for construction
- Smaller wall footprint reduces impact to trees adjacent to the rail corridor
- Speedier and simpler construction



T-Wall retaining wall system



Cross-section the T-wall retaining system at Bruce Mackay Park

DESIGN EXCELLENCE: JOINT CORRIDOR KIT OF PARTS

The retaining walls and noise barriers, and associated landscape mitigation 'kit of parts', consists of number of standard elements. In addition to the base elements that will be installed as part of the Early Works Package, there are a number of additional enhancements available for deployment as part of the Landscape Design.



DESIGN EXCELLENCE: JOINT CORRIDOR KIT OF PARTS



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JOINT CORRIDOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE WORKING GROUP

Principles guiding the landscape design approach:

- Protect mature trees and vegetation where feasible
- Use layering of trees and vegetation to enhance visual screening*
- Plan for year-round changes in colour and employ an all-season planting and vegetation strategy (specify a combination of coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs)
- Employ low maintenance, self-sustaining landscape and planting strategies
- Where space permits landscaped and terraced embankments can minimize the visual impacts of retaining walls



An rendering of an integrated retaining wall, noise barrier, and landscape design proposal for Bruce Mackay Park.

* Where space permits, layers of plantings can provide an ever-changing visual buffer adjacent to linear infrastructure including rail corridors, retaining walls, and noise barriers.

Community Survey Results Feedback on retaining walls, noise barriers, and landscape design proposals

RIVERSIDE/LESLIEVILLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

East Segment Virtual Open Houses

Metrolinx hosted a series of meetings on April 22, June 24, September 23 and October 5, 2021 with more than 800 people from the community in attendance.

LURA Design Survey

Lura Consultants created a survey for Riverside and Leslieville residents to provide input and feedback on the design of the new noise walls, retaining wall options and vegetative landscaping.

LURA Consultants

In September 2021, LURA organized and facilitated independent meetings with LSE CAC, Save Jimmie Simpson, East End Transit Alliance, Riverside BIA and Leslieville BIA to raise awareness and get feedback on the Ontario Line.





The online questionnaire was open from September 23 to October 24

Priorities:

Survey participants indicated that the priorities for the project should be minimizing background noise levels, protecting existing trees, introducing new trees and plants, and minimizing the visual and physical impacts of both the passing trains and the expanded rail corridor.

The community feedback focused on four key issues:

- 1. Noise Mitigation
- 2. Mitigation of Visual Impacts
 - Participants consistently indicated that landscaping and planting features should be designed to conceal the new walls as much as possible.
- 3. Graffiti Deterrence
 - Participants consistently indicated that the design features should deter graffiti.

4. Tree Protection

- Many participants expressed concern about the loss of mature trees
- Participants consistently expressed desire for as many new trees and vegetation to be planted as possible, and that fast-growing tree species be selected so that the tree canopy height is quickly restored.



Noise Barriers

- Participants indicated that their preference for noise wall transparency would be based on whichever material is most noise-reducing.
 - Survey participants preferred noise walls with moderate transparency (40% approval) or low transparency (38% approval).
- Participants supported trees and vegetation being planted in front of the noise wall, regardless of transparency level.
- Participants indicated that the level of transparency should vary depending on location, with residential areas having lower to zero transparency, and green space and activity areas having higher transparency.



Noise barrier with transparent panels



Noise barrier with translucent panels



Noise barrier with opaque panels

Noise barrier panel specifications



Transparent panel



Translucent panel



Opaque panel

Retaining Walls

- Participants indicated a desire for additional textured concrete pattern options to be considered.
 - Of the patterns presented of textured concrete for the retaining walls, majority of survey participants preferred the high-relief wood-like pattern (58% approval).
- Participants expressed desire for the concrete to be concealed by greenery and artwork.
- Participants discussed that the concrete pattern should be simple, deter graffiti, be easy to maintain, and support vine and vegetation growth.

Activity Features for Open Green Space

- Participants emphasized that seating and activity features should be accessible to all users.
- Participants indicated that activity spaces and trails should be designed to deter vandalism and graffiti.
 - Majority of survey participants supported:
 - Extending green space to increase the activity space within community parks (73% approval).
 - Adding new plants and trees to create a visual screen in front of the retaining and noise walls (90% approval).
 - Adding landscaping features to enhance existing community spaces (87% approval).





High Relief Wood Pattern



Stacked Vertical Stripe Pattern



Simple Vertical Stripe Pattern

Vegetation Types

- Participants emphasized selecting a mix of plants to provide colour in all seasons.
- Participants indicated a preference for native and pollinator plants.
- Participants suggested using vines, trees, and tall grasses to conceal the retaining wall.

Landscaping and Planting Features

- Participants indicated that a mix of landscaping and planting features be used to tailor to the surrounding neighbourhood's character.
- Participants indicated that landscaping and planting features should be designed to limit maintenance needs, deter graffiti, and conceal the retaining wall.





Examples of how an integrated retaining wall, noise barrier, and landscape design solution can be applied to different conditions along the Joint Corridor.

Trees

- Participants indicated that a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees should be planted.
 - Survey participants preferred deciduous row (76% approval) and coniferous screen (72% approval) over columnar tree hedge (54% approval) as options for tree layering.
- Participants recommended that faster growing tree species be selected to quickly restore removed canopy.

Underpass Design

- Participants suggested the wall surface patterns should be simple and allow for the inclusion of public art murals.
- Participants indicated that the underpass design should prioritize deterring graffiti and creating a bright environment with no unlit corners.
 - Majority of survey participants opposed the wall pattern options proposed for the underpass. The highest level of support was for the high-relief wood-like pattern (47% approval).
 - Survey participants supported all three lighting options that were presented. The highest level of support was for lighting integrated into wall (73% approval).



METROLINX GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Timely removal of graffiti

- Timely graffiti removal will help stop the spread and re-occurrence of graffiti.
- Graffiti writers will not waste their time or materials and are unlikely to return to locations that do not offer a good return for their efforts.

Apply graffiti resistant coatings or protectants on vulnerable surfaces

- Pigmented coatings that can be over-painted.
- Clear anti-graffiti coatings with silicone-based "slip additives" (this stops paint from adhering to surfaces).
- This is a standard practice for most municipalities and transit agencies.

DGL-03 DESIGN GUIDELINE GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT

VERSION 1.1 NOVEMBER 2021



Cover of the Metrolinx Graffiti Management Design Guideline

METROLINX GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Restrict access to walls or vulnerable areas

• Graffiti writers will not waste their time or materials and are unlikely to return to locations that are difficult to access.

Murals

 Murals have a successful track record in reducing graffiti vandalism and replacing it with vibrant, colourful, community-engaged street art.

Landscaping on, or adjacent, to vulnerable surfaces

• Vines, plants, and shrubs (natural and artificial) are a proven graffiti deterrence strategy.

Increase lighting

 Increasing lighting in vulnerable areas to discourage vandals.



Excerpt from the Graffiti Management Design Guideline

Next Steps

WORKING GROUP: NEXT STEPS

- 1. Open Discussion
- 2. Follow up with notes/decision/action items from today's workshop
- 3. Terms of Reference
- 4. Schedule and topics for the Design Excellence Working Group:
 - The agendas and the schedule for future workshops will be discussed with this Working Group
 - Future sessions can focus on specific areas along the Joint Corridor, the Queen Street Underpass, graffiti management, and overall landscape strategies.
- 5. Next meeting agenda to be shared in advance