

September 7, 2021

Delivered via email: [chair@metrolinx.com](mailto:chair@metrolinx.com)

RE: Lower Don Bridge 'Early Works' Breaches Federal Funding Conditions

This is a joint letter from Save Jimmie Simpson and Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee.

Our community is gravely concerned about the Lower Don Bridge 'Early Works' which precedes the full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). If the Lower Don Bridge 'Early Works' were to proceed now, it necessarily presumes the Ontario Line alignment in Riverside and Leslieville will be above ground. This is wholly inappropriate as the environmental impacts are not known and the public has not been meaningfully consulted.

In a letter dated February 26, 2021, Metrolinx said their environmental assessment will *not* look at potential health risks as it is "not standard Metrolinx practice." Metrolinx also confirmed that noise and vibration along the rail corridor will exceed industry standards, yet provided no information about how it may affect health and safety of our community.

If Metrolinx thinks human health impacts are inconsequential, we do not.

Save Jimmie Simpson in partnership with the South Riverdale Community Health Centre has commissioned a [Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\)](#). This study is being conducted by Ronald Macfarlane, a well-known environmental health expert, and is exploring what public health risks may be associated with an above ground Ontario Line

We insist that Ontario Line-related health risks identified in the HIA be incorporated into the Metrolinx Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the final design for the Ontario Line.

Health Canada is on record criticizing Metrolinx's faulty environmental assessment process. [Health Canada's analysis](#) noted Metrolinx "does not discuss the potential for human health risks" and "does not identify the potential for cumulative effects" of multiple projects "between the East Harbour Station and Gerrard Station along the proposed Ontario Line corridors."

It is because of the irreparable damage to green space, public health and community safety caused by the Ontario Line that the City of Toronto has been requesting that Metrolinx seriously study the community-supported underground alignment. City Council passed a motion<sup>1</sup> endorsing an underground subway in Riverside and Leslieville. Metrolinx is currently pursuing a route that is neither supported by the municipal government nor by the host community.

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<sup>1</sup> [MM28.17](#) is one of numerous motions passed by City Council expressing its support for a below ground subway in South Riverdale.



Therefore, we demand that no 'early works' construction on Lower Don Bridge take place before:

- (1) the full Environmental Impact Assessment Report is released, and the public has been properly consulted on the potential impacts;
- (2) the findings of the community's Health Impact Assessment are incorporated into the Ontario Line design; and
- (3) the final Ontario Line design has been endorsed by Toronto City Council and the host community.

Proceeding with this 'early works' construction will invariably breach the key federal funding conditions of thorough environmental review and meaningful engagement with the public.

No public transit should come at the expense of public health.

We request this letter be sent individually to each board member of Metrolinx. We request a response from the Metrolinx Board, rather than corporate communications.

**Maggi Redmonds**  
Save Jimmie Simpson

**Eon Song**  
Save Jimmie Simpson

**Shelley Kline**  
LSE CAC

**Save Jimmie Simpson!** is a grass-roots community group, fighting to have the Ontario Line buried in order to save our community's parks, health & well-being. We are 700+ community members who support public transit that is evidence-based, environmentally responsible and planned with genuine input from the neighbourhoods in which it is built.

**Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC)** works to minimize the impact of Metrolinx's projects on the quality of life for local residents and communities. It is made up of community members who live in proximity to the LSE rail corridor along with our elected officials.

Cc:

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