

April 2, 2021

Via email: [chair@metrolinx.com](mailto:chair@metrolinx.com), [ceo@metrolinx.com](mailto:ceo@metrolinx.com)

Dear Metrolinx Board,

All members of the Metrolinx Board of Directors will want to watch the seven-minute section of the March 30, 2021, Toronto City Council Executive Committee Meeting from timestamp 4:40 to 4:47.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/video.do?id=19733>

I tuned in to view the public deputations about the Ontario Line project but was particularly struck by the impassioned responses from a majority of Councillors who spoke about their negative Metrolinx community consultation experiences. This negative feedback from all across the city should deeply concern all Board Members and Metrolinx Leadership, and hopefully spur them to do better on behalf of all Ontarians.

When Councillor Paula Fletcher described the problems her constituents have had trying to engage with Metrolinx -- that they were taken aback to hear in the middle of a meeting with Metrolinx the alignment of the Ontario Line has changed to the west side of the corridor when this was not even on the agenda -- two other Councillors also described the problems they have had in their wards and referred to three other Wards where similar problems exist. Metrolinx, you have a problem!

Below are some quotations from their comments following the deputations about the Ontario Line (which start at timestamp 3:57 and are also very worth hearing.)

Time 4:40: start of comments by Councillor Paul Ainslie:

“I am speaking purely to commiserate with Councillor Fletcher because I understand her concerns and experiences... “

**“MX will change their plans and they will not tell you and I can tell you this from experience ...**

“No elaboration of a change of plans or project scope within my community since the last town hall in 2017...”

“I am sure Councillor Thompson and Councillor McKelvie are having similar experiences trying to get information out of Metrolinx...”

**“When I can’t get information from Metrolinx I go to my local MPP to get the information and they’re not informed or given any information either...”**

“It is really flabbergasting and this has been going on probably since 2016...”

“MX change over staff so quickly and so often, I don’t even put their business cards into a rolodex anymore...”

**“When it comes to public consultation, they go out of their way to hide the public consultations... “**

“They don’t go out of the way to do engage with our community...”

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“I hope we as a council can figure out a stronger message that we can send to Metrolinx ...”

**“When they talk about being partners with us, I think that is furthest from the actual case...”**

Time 4:44 start of comments by Councilor Ana Bailao:

**“I had a very similar situation... “**

“There were certain commitments that were made to the community.... public realm, art, there’s a long list, Lansdowne Station...”

“I am still grappling with this...”

**“There were commitments that were made to the community because they were having the Davenport Diamond... “**

“...must respect the community they go through... “

**“We thought we had all those commitments but here I am again, still at this stage, about to draft yet another letter to Metrolinx to ensure that we get the commitments that were made to the community...”**

“Councilor Perruzza had the same issues with something in his community as well ...”

**“...some work that needs to be done in terms of communicating their commitments and listening to the communities and building trust with communities...”**

“...And the way that you conduct consultations when you come to a project that you delivered the way that you agreed with that community is really important...”

Time 4:47 Comments by Mayor Tory:

**“Dealing with Metrolinx is always an adventure...”**

“We have a challenge in front of us in terms of making sure that adequate information is provided and that adequate consultation takes place...”

I hope all of the Metrolinx Board Members will watch this video and realize that community consultation is not a box to be checked, but an integral part of any project planning process. This will vastly improve the project and Metrolinx’s reputation. The Ontario Line project is still at the stage where meaningful community consultation can take place to make it a better project. We urge Metrolinx to do better and not to miss this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Waterston,

*On behalf of,*

*The Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee*  
LSE CAC, [lse.cac.20@gmail.com](mailto:lse.cac.20@gmail.com)  
[www.lakeshoreeasttrains.com](http://www.lakeshoreeasttrains.com)

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*Office of the Chair*  
Donald A. Wright  
chair@metrolinx.com  
(416) 202-5906

May 19, 2021

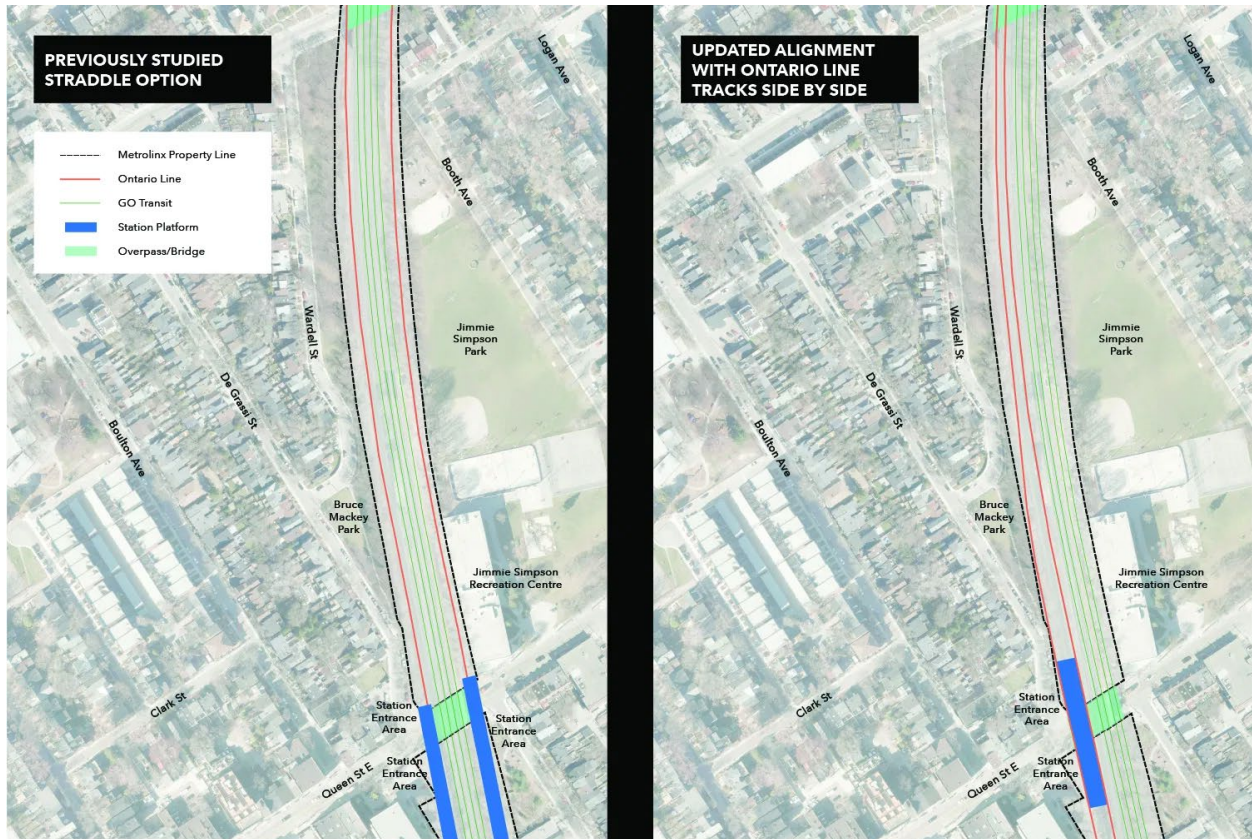
Rosemary Waterston  
Member, Lakeshore East, Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC)  
Toronto, Ontario  
www.LakeShoreEastTrains.com  
[lse.cac.20@gmail.com](mailto:lse.cac.20@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Waterston,

Thank you for your letter dated April 2, 2021, regarding the City of Toronto's Executive Committee meeting and their comments about Metrolinx. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Board.

Like all our projects, the Ontario Line is very complex. As we work through the design process, we are constantly considering refinements that could reduce community impacts and improve the benefits of the project.

Regarding the proposal to move Ontario Line tracks to the west side of the Lakeshore East rail corridor, I would like to assure you that this refinement allowed us to significantly minimize impacts to the community. While we are proposing a reconfiguration of the tracks, we will be staying mostly within our existing right-of-way. By streamlining Gerrard and Leslieville stations to have trains loading on both sides of a single platform, we have been able to reduce our overall footprint compared to previous proposals. You can see the difference in the visual comparison below.



The Ontario Line is poised to be a critical part of our future transit network and will bring 255,000 people within a 10-minute walk of an Ontario Line station once complete. Metrolinx is also extending the Line 1 subway north to York Region, extending the Line 2 subway further into Scarborough, and planning an underground extension of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT west towards Pearson Airport. We are also delivering GO Expansion, a program to transform GO into an electrified regional rail system with frequent, two-way all-day trains.

Each of these transformative projects will bring community impacts, especially within the City of Toronto. We are committed to working with communities and our municipal partners to mitigate these impacts as best as possible. I regret that there can be moments of disagreement between us and certain stakeholders, which were on display at the Toronto Executive Committee meeting. However, this only underlines our commitment to a comprehensive process of community engagement, and as these projects evolve, I am confident that we will work through these issues so we can achieve our goal of delivering the connected transit network Toronto and the region needs.

Sincerely,

*Donald A. Wright*

**DONALD WRIGHT**  
 Chair, Board of Directors  
 Metrolinx

