

Queen/Spadina CLC MINUTES

September 12, 2023
6:00 – 7:00 pm (Walking Tour)

ATTENDEES:

Elected Officials/Staff

- Marouan Malaeb-Proulx (Ward 10, Ausma Malik)

City of Toronto

- Michael Paolucci (Transportation Services)

BIA/Community Groups/Non-Profit

- Arthur Geringas
- Alan Liu

Metrolinx

- Bradley Naismith
- Athavan Nadarajah
- Franca DiGiovanni
- Kenia Barreto

OTG

- Sergio Gijon Ramirez de Arellano
- Allison Dewhirst
- Chloe Mills
- Emaan Ali

OVERVIEW:

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023, Metrolinx hosted a Queen/Spadina CLC meeting in partnership with OTG. This meeting was hosted as a walking tour through the area that will be impacted by construction and invited CLC members to join along, ask questions and share feedback.

The tour started at 372 Queen Street West, where Metrolinx representatives, OTG representatives and CLC members convened, shared welcoming remarks, and completed brief introductions. OTG proceeded by leading the group west on Queen Street to the corner of Queen and Spadina. OTG explained that there will be north and south entrances to the station and that the south station will require excavation deep into the ground, including demolition at the southwest corner of the intersection. The demolition is expected to start at the end of September 2023.

Construction to create the north entrance to the station will impact historic buildings in the area. OTG communicated the importance of preserving these buildings and explained that, in the case of one building on the northeast corner, the facade will be dismantled by cutting panels, loading them into trucks and saving them until the future building is complete. OTG proceeded by leading the group north on Spadina to the intersection of Spadina and Bulwer, where the groups attention was directed toward another façade that is being dismantled brick by brick to be saved in boxes, to be restored in the future. The work will continue with the full demolition of the building from the inside.

CLC members asked questions and shared feedback throughout and at the end of the tour, to which Metrolinx and OTG representatives responded and took notes on key issues and

recommendations. Some of the topics that members raised include business impacts, pedestrian access, community safety and long-term planning.

QUESTIONS:

- **Can you provide more insights about the containment of the Southwest Corner during demolition and how it will impact retails as the holiday season approaches?**
 - OTG stated that the pedestrian lane will be moved for a time but then once the demo phase is complete the pedestrian access will be opened again on the sidewalk with a tunnel.
 - For work on the Northeast corner, pedestrians on the Queen Street side will not be walking on the road, the Spadina side will have supports for people walking on the lane side detour.
- **Can you speak to the visibility and mitigation of criminal activity (i.e., graffiti and assaults) or people in distress in the pedestrian access route?**
 - OTG stated that for work on the Northeast corner, in January and February, for walking pedestrians will be under a steel structure with low concrete blocks to ensure visibility.
- **Is there opportunities for lighting and illumination in the area?**
 - OTG shared that the team is exploring light options. Sergio shared that the lane access for Spadina is planned to be back the first week of December.
- **Queen Street West BIA requested that the pedestrian access ensures safety and attention to detail with signage. An example referenced was an incorrect TTC sign posted in the area that was not supposed to be posted on the site.**
 - OTG shared that for the back building panel approach there will be some road closures for one Spadina lane and Bulwer Street. There are no confirmed dates yet but it's looking like the closures would be weekends 8am-5pm (i.e. one weekend in October, November and December).
 - OTG shared that neighbours will be ensured access to Bulwer Street.
 - OTG shared that more signage is to come and the TTC sign was removed immediately after it was flagged on the 24-hour support line and for the BIA to continue to reach out using that line to flag any further concerns.
- **Queen Street West BIA referenced the original documents from two years ago that included a transportation route that had dump trucks on Queen Street and turning south on Spadina.**
 - BIA commented that this initial route would have been disruptive but now the team is pleased with the adjusted route with the trucks on Bulwer and the north side of Spadina.

The above is a summary of subjects discussed and conclusions reached at the above meeting.
Please advise of any errors or omissions.

- **Are there any updates on the marketing initiatives and designs for the hording? The team would like to see progress made on the design, understanding that it will be a long process for production and installation.**
 - OTG to reach out to Queen Street West BIA to provide the timeline on that project and next steps.
- **Can you please provide a long-term plan to get ahead of timelines and provide support where we can throughout the process?**
 - OTG to provide any updates on the long-term plan when available.
- **Visibility for this area is a huge opportunity - visibility as in wayfinding. BIA would like to see more efforts to design around the neighbourhood.**
 - Another comment was the steel pedestrian structure on the northeast corner. BIA expressed concern for the access to be blocked by people in distress sheltering in the pathway and advised the use of mesh on the structure siding vs. paneling.
 - OTG to provide any updates on the pedestrian structure design and dates as they become available.
- **BIA provided the opportunity for OTG to work with a contact at Police division 52 and 12 who could consult about community design that factors in shadow points and security. Another related question was if OTG is installing security cameras?**
 - OTG shared that the team is in the process of exploring options.
- **Would the intention be that the security footage would be available to police?**
 - OTG will investigate potentially sharing security footage with the police as the security option is selected.
- **The BIA would like to do an inventory of street furniture in the area like bike rings as they have just made a large investment and would want to maintain those pieces during construction.**

ACTION ITEMS:

1. OTG to provide any updates on the long-term plan when available.
2. OTG to provide any updates on the pedestrian structure design and dates as they become available.
3. OTG to reach out to Queen Street West BIA regarding next steps for the marketing initiatives.