

Corktown CLC MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2023

6:00PM-7:30PM

Attendees:

City of Toronto

- Michael Paolucci
- Richard Borbridge
- Julia Murnaghan
- Nazli Dehghani
- Terry Francouer

BIA/Community Groups/Non-Profit/Resident

- Neil Betteridge, Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association (GWNA)
- Cory Lemos, Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA)
- Mark van Elsberg, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA
- Michel, Resident
- Nancy Thacker, Resident
- Al Smith, Resident
- Ole Calderone, Resident
- Terry, Resident
- Nicole D, Resident
- Dan Perlitz, Resident

Metrolinx

- Amanda Kusick
- Athavan Nadarajah
- Daniel Cicero
- Jeff Muir
- Zahrah Munas
- Ross Andersen
- Jason Hall

OTG

- Rafael Oscar Joffre Godoy
- Allison Dewhirst
- Gerrit Wesselink
- Julia Orsini

OVERVIEW

The Metrolinx and OTG teams hosted the third CLC meeting for Corktown on September 28, 2023. The meeting commenced with Metrolinx welcoming attendees to the space, providing a land acknowledgement and sharing safety tips with the group.

Metrolinx proceeded by sharing the next step action items from the last CLC meeting. Metrolinx discussed the current works at Don Yard at a higher level, as the construction team for the Don Yards was not available for the CLC meeting. The archaeological team discussed the coordination of construction and archeological work that is being done through the formal agreement between OTG and Metrolinx permitting archeological investigations to continue while OTG early works, and site preparations take place.

From there OTG shared an update on construction activities completed to date, permits submitted and site-specific plans, covering topics such as utilities work and overnight drilling.

The presentation paused at intervals to take questions from attendees, and in addition to that, attendees were invited to more formally ask questions once the presentation was complete. A summary of the questions posed by attendees and the responses provided by the presenters is outlined below.

QUESTIONS:

- **GWNA reminded the Metrolinx team of the request from the community to share the noise mitigation report.**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that they would add this as a next step. They expressed that they want to be transparent about the report but need to have it approved internally.
- **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA commented that the contractor working on overnight sewer work and utility surveying on Berkley, Front, and King St E has blocked traffic east of Front narrowing front far before the job site, causing difficult right turns before Parliament and frustrates traffic particularly when cars need to turn. Notes that Parliament St has been blocked off for months now, and the community is having difficulty finding places to drive.**
 - **Metrolinx and OTG** noted that they will follow-up on this issue with the contractor.
- **A resident wanted to discuss overnight work noise, which is affecting residents and their sleep.**

- **Metrolinx** said they appreciate that it is not an easy time and that the team does not want to noise to be unreasonable, will work with OTG on noise mitigation strategies. Presently, nighttime construction was the only option according to the City of Toronto due to street closures.
- **Resident** said this noise is not reasonable, and no one wants to take responsibility for the time of this construction.
- **Another Resident** added that they have called the City of Toronto to complain and says that City states the responsibility is up to Metrolinx. Says that there is not a lot of activity during the day and the construction team waits until nighttime to make noise that is above the allowable decibel levels.
- **Resident** notes that the night before the meeting (September 27th) construction crew started at 2am. He added that the team's response is ridiculous and unacceptable.
- **Metrolinx** stepped in and stated that the team will investigate the noise issue as soon as possible. Currently the crews are doing underground sewage work and added that this must be done at night is because there are multiple sections of the road that need to be closed to be worked on. City granted permit to work overnight to avoid road closures during the day.
- **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA** recommended that Metrolinx/OTG get community support to pressure the City of Toronto to revoke the permit, as the site is pinching the road the same at every condo.
- **Resident** asked why residents should trust the project team to mitigate noise, if the team is not able to respond to the questions.
- **Metrolinx** noted that as an immediate action item, they will follow up with the City of Toronto to see if day work would be permitted. On a short-term note, they will work closely with the construction team to review works upcoming.
- **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA** asked that when the project team moves to activities on site, if Metrolinx can install the same tent structure for the duration. Noise walls work for low scale neighbourhoods where sound get bounced up, but that noise walls do not work in urban areas. Covering the site, will keep the noise out of the community and allow working in dry conditions all year and for longer time frames.
- **Resident** asked if they would stop the noise tonight so he can get a good sleep.

Update: Metrolinx heard the community's concerns loud and clear. After the CLC, Metrolinx has been in active discussions with the City on permitting requirements in the Corktown area. On Friday, October 6th, the City informed OTG/Mx that they would permit noisy utility activities to be undertaken during the day with completion of work by early evening (i.e. no overnight work). Permits will be issued on a location by location basis with specific restrictions

listed for each area. More information, including an updated Metrolinx construction notice, will be shared with the community.

- **Resident expressed that they live on Hahn St on the west side of Parliament from the Distillery and was told that part that building has been expropriated. They asked to clarify what that meant.**
 - **Metrolinx** explained that Metrolinx would be having these conversations with the City of Toronto as this is a city-owned property. Mx will get in touch with the City's property team on this. It was added that the property will not be expropriated anytime soon, and they will be informed.

- **Resident wanted to know who to speak to on the project team regarding station naming.**
 - **Metrolinx** confirmed that at this point of the project they are not considering the naming of the station, but that that conversations will occur in the coming years.
 - **Metrolinx** confirmed that there will be a naming competition some time away with more details to come.
 - **Resident added** that he can help with this process and is happy to partner up, as there are community members very excited to get started on this, as they do not want the Corktown name to be a permanent name.
 - **CRBA** noted that the naming conversation should take place on another platform than Microsoft Teams. The CRBA and Corktown Neighbourhood has been very interested in discussions over the Station Name.

- **Resident mentioned John Wilson's follow up with SmartTrack from the last meeting and wants to know what about the residents like himself east of Parliament St. Asked if there is a possibility for Metrolinx to coordinate with Smart Track when construction projects are becoming aligned timing-wise.**
 - **Metrolinx** understands the need to have collaborative meetings to get information for both projects at the same time, so happy to facilitate a meeting like that.
 - **Metrolinx** confirmed that they can get more information on how tunnel between Corktown and Don Yard will work.

- **GWNA brought up the permanent hoarding for the construction site. He added that residents would like something more than the black boarding and Metrolinx ads, including community art, references to the First Parliament Site, or anything that has to do with Old Town.**

- **Metrolinx** confirms that the team will be collaborating with the community on artwork for the permanent hoarding, including the First Parliament site art.
 - **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA** mentions that archeological findings were not presented to the community during these calls - offers the idea that the photographs for these sites that can be part of the hoarding.
 - **Metrolinx** agrees that there is a First Parliament working group that is collaborating on the artwork for the hoarding. Agrees that the public art is a great opportunity for the hoarding.
 - **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA** notes that the City of Toronto bought the site for the artwork and agrees this differentiates their station from others for the artwork to reflect the community's rich history.
 - **Resident** wondered if they can use a camera to view the site on the Globe and Mail building available on a website.
- **St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA noted that the BIA has been developing a master plan for the community to improve their streets to improve safety and widen the sidewalks. He added that the BIA has identified a possible problem with the amount of space within the King Street ROW, as the pavement width and the sidewalk widths are not sufficient to accommodate the interchange between above-ground riders and underground. St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA asked to review this plan with the design team, and to review how cyclists can access this site.**
 - **Metrolinx** noted that they will follow-up on this issue.
 - **Resident/ND asked if there a date/timeline for the tunnel dig section from Corktown to the Don Yard.**
 - **Metrolinx** noted that they will follow-up on this issue.
 - **Resident asked if the construction team get rid of the planter/concrete block underneath the hoarding on the north side of the site adjacent to the staples building, especially before it snows?**
 - **Metrolinx** noted that they will follow-up on this issue.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Metrolinx and OTG** to share the information on equipment used at worksites and associated noise levels going forward.
2. **Metrolinx and OTG** to provide further information on noise mitigation reports.
3. **Metrolinx and OTG** to follow up on the traffic congestion that is being caused by the contractor working on overnight sewer work and utility surveying on the job site.
4. **Metrolinx and OTG** to investigate when overnight works will be taking place in the future. **Metrolinx** to follow-up with the City of Toronto on overnight work, and if possible, to change the permit for daytime work in the area instead.
5. **Metrolinx** to follow up on the master plan the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA has worked on to improve their streets, sidewalks and cyclist safety.
6. **Metrolinx** to share more information on the tunnelling plans, specifically from Corktown to the Don Yard.
7. **Metrolinx** to follow up on the planter/concrete block underneath the hoarding on the north side of the site to see if it can be removed.
8. **Metrolinx** to share updates on the East Harbour station, given its proximity to the ongoing works at Don Yard in Corktown CLC.